

Earth Hour 2015: How do floods and droughts affect our environment? – Year 3 & 4

Teacher preparation

Teacher content information: Earth Hour is a WWF initiative which has grown into the world's largest community-driven campaign for the planet. At the centre of the campaign is the symbolic collective action of switching off the lights. Through this action, individuals, businesses, schools and communities join a visible statement of commitment to act on climate change. Participation remains a powerful reminder to our political leaders that there is ongoing concern and demand for the government to act on climate change.



This year Earth Hour is shining the spotlight on the impact of climate change on farming and food with the aim to make the issue relevant for all Australians. Australia is the world's most vulnerable industrialised country to climate change impacts such as extreme droughts, floods, cyclones and heatwaves - and agriculture is our most climate-exposed industry. Carbon pollution therefore threatens farmers' livelihoods and futures more than almost any other group of people in Australia. Our farmers are already feeling the impacts of climate change. Australian food we know and love is highly vulnerable, which may lead to us having to source more food from overseas.

Earth Hour Australia's Egg-cellent Launch Video (<http://youtu.be/IBs2dnDj8Og>)

Teaching sequence



10 minutes - Preliminary activity and explanation of activity

15 minutes - Photo assessment task

25 minutes - Story writing

10 minutes - Sharing stories and closing discussion

Work through this resource material in the following sequence:

1. Preliminary activity – Begin by asking students to share what they know about droughts and floods (students can use the student worksheet). For example:

- What is a drought and what is a flood?
- When do droughts and floods happen?

Ask students to share their answers.

2. Using the student worksheets ask students to identify how floods and droughts affect the landscape.

3. Once complete, ask students to write a short story about how a native plant or animal might be affected by a drought and a flood. Ask students to select one of the following native plants or animals, ensuring that each is selected at least once:

- Kangaroo
- Koala
- Frog
- River fish
- Snake
- Bird
- Gum tree

Remind students to use correct language and grammar conventions when writing their story.



Homework:

Using the table on the student worksheet, ask students to think about how droughts and floods affect people.

Provisions for Learning Support:

Assign extra time for the completion of the creative writing task and provide keywords on which they can expand in their own way, for example:

- Burrow
- Climb
- Float
- Shelter
- Share
- Swim
- Nighttime
- Daytime
- Dew
- Plants
- Other animals