

Grade 7 Vocabulary

Use of Vocabulary Words in Context

Week 7

Directions: Read the passage below to better understand the vocabulary words.

Planning Ahead

Vocabulary Words

drought

stricken

relief

dams

scarcity

groundwater

extraction

irrigation

policies

municipal

feasibility

prolong

erratic

reservoir

gauging

Hint: When learning new terms, look for context clues to help determine the meaning. If the sentence you find the word in is not helpful, keep reading to see if it can be understood.

Some areas are prone to **drought**. This means there is a **scarcity** of water, one of the basic needs for all forms of life. If this is something that happens often, there are ways to plan ahead and not be as affected by a shortage. This starts at the governmental level with **municipal policies** that allow homeowners to make changes to their land to deal with water shortage.

Once approved, a homeowner can do things like dig **irrigation** ditches. These ditches route rain water to the areas that need them most, like a garden. Another option is to create a **reservoir** by digging a spot and creating **dams** so the water does not leak out. This can be a huge undertaking, but well worth it. The reason it is so difficult is because of the work involved, but also **gauging** how much water can be stored and what could be needed. The **feasibility** of such a large amount of work is not always work it. Some people may be lucky and can use **extraction** as a way to access **groundwater**, like with a manual pump or well. **Groundwater** often flows even in times of **drought**. This can offer **relief** when **stricken** with a period of light or **erratic** rain. This makes it possible to **prolong** the amount of time both land and people can last without rain falling.

Being prepared, when possible, is the best option. Some people do not think this far ahead and run into problems when a **drought** does hit. It is always best to know what the normal weather is like in an area before settling.

