

In den land where life is on hold

ENGLISH READING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

1 VOCABULARY

Try to find the meanings of the following words.

- a) When people murmur, do they make a loud sound or a soft sound?
- b) If you give your assent, do you agree or disagree?
- c) If crops wilt, do they get weaker or stronger?
- d) If you hang on, do you keep going or give up?
- e) Would a perilous situation be safe or very dangerous?
- f) When the wells run dry, are they full or empty?
- g) Is a vast area huge or tiny?
- h) Does a meteorologist study the weather or how to grow crops?
- i) If you are destitute, are you extremely rich or extremely poor?
- k) If a river dries up, is it full or empty?

Translate the following words:

the crowd = _____
the crops = _____
to harvest = _____
the effect = _____
perilous = _____
vast = _____
urban water supplies = _____
the well = _____
the destitution = _____
the floods = _____
the drought = _____
the famine = _____
the unpredictability = _____
the crop failure = _____
the food emergency = _____

2 CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

a) In Chikani last year....

- there were heavy rains in November.
- it rained for three weeks in December.
- the first rains came a month later than normal.

b) The villagers.....

- agree with what Julius says.
- have not harvested any maize this year.
- have rice as their staple diet.

c) Global warming will....

- make summer colder.
- make growing season longer.
- make sea levels fall.

d) In southern Africa...

- they have had extremes of weather for a long time.
- the climate is becoming more predictable.
- severe weather is becoming less frequent.

3 DISCUSSION

1) Does global warming effect us all or just people in Africa? What would happen if they ice caps melted?

2) How are these things affected by global warming?

the rainforests wild animals pollution
disease water levels water supplies
political relations between countries

3) What practical things could be done to reduce the effects of global warming?

4) What would happen in your living place if spring, summer, autumn and winter were all eight degrees warmer?

Try to use the following language.

If this country was eight degrees hotter than it is now, there would be all sorts of changes. For example, it would be....

People would feel....and animals would....

All the seasons would be different. For example...

On the one hand, there would be good things, like....

But there would also be some problems, for example...

Overall, we think an increase of eight degrees all year round would....

