

Questions to answer after reading “California’s drought could upend America’s entire food system” and “Boehner blames California drought on Obama.”

Questions to answer after reading “California’s drought could upend America’s entire food system”

1. Define the following terms:

Industrial agriculture

Mono-agriculture

Regional agriculture

Surface water

Underground aquifers

California Central Valley

Farm bills

Agricultural subsidies

Subsidized commodity crop

Ethanol

High fructose corn syrup,

Agribusiness

Portfolio diversity

Federal quotas and the New Deal

2. What do researchers think is the cause of California’s drought?

3. How is the drought impacting California’s food system?

4. How is the drought affecting the hydrology of California? What has the state government of California done to mitigate the loss in surface and ground water? You may have to look up additional sources on the internet to see what action Governor Brown has taken.

5. What is the economic impact of California's drought on its agricultural system?

6. What is the cultural impact (think outside of the box) of California's drought on its agricultural system?

7. How have agricultural subsidies encouraged mono-cropping?

8. What are the benefits and costs of a regional food system?

9. What are the benefits and costs of a large industrial scale agricultural food system?

10. What is the main argument in this article?

Questions to answer after reading the article **“Boehner blames California drought on Obama”**

1. What is Speaker Boehner's assertion about Obama's role in California's drought? Does it have scientific validity?

2. What do you think of Boehner's quote “If ever there was a phrase that perfectly encapsulates liberal environmentalists' backwards priorities and regressive ideology of restriction and scarcity, it is the one now displayed on a government sign in Arcadia, California: “It's 'green' to go brown.”

- 3.** Look at the 3 pictures of California's groundwater depletion from 2011-2013. What do you conclude from these pictures?

- 4.** What is a canard?

- 5.** Watch the video on what is causing the water scarcity/drought in CA and jot down the causes.
http://player.theplatform.com/p/7wvmTC/MSNBCEmbeddedOffSite?guid=n_hayes_ffleischli_150715#