

Read the newspaper report below:

ITALIAN DROUGHT CONTINUES - ROME'S WATER SUPPLY TO BE CUT!

1.5 million people living in the Italian capital city face eight hours a day without running water.

Lake Bracciano, a volcanic lake about 35 kms from Rome, has always been used as a water supply for the Italian capital city during dry spells. However, in recent years, the lake has been used more and more on a regular basis as rainfall in the area has dropped by 70% over the past three years. This summer, the governor of the Lazio region, Nicola Zingaretti, has said enough is enough and Rome's citizens now face up to eight hours a day without running water.

The water level in Lake Bracciano has fallen at least 1.5 metres this summer and islands have begun to appear. The governor said that the draining of the lake posed an unacceptable danger to the aquatic life of the lake and would lead to a massive environmental disaster.

Maximum temperatures in Italy are 2.5°C above the average for the time of year and rainfall was up to 80% less than normal this spring across Italy. Farming has been severely affected across the country. It is estimated that the drought has already caused €2 billion of damage in lost production. Milk production has already dropped and tomato, grape and olive growers have also been affected.

Wildfires have also destroyed many hectares of forest. Italy's main north-south motorway was shut for three hours on Saturday after wildfires on the outskirts of Rome caused visibility problems. Rome has already started turning off its public water fountains. These have worked continuously since 1874.

Governor Zingaretti has invited Donald Trump to the region to see what it means not to respect climate agreements after the US president's decision to pull out of the Paris climate change treaty on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Student tasks

1. Identify the **causes** of the drought.
2. Identify the **effects** of the possible drought in Rome.
3. Identify the **effects** of the possible drought across Italy.
4. Identify the **responses** to the drought.

You could use four different colours, one for each of the tasks above, to colour code the article.

Extension task

How might the drop in water level in Lake Bracciano cause an environmental disaster?

Teaching notes

This resource asks students to identify causes, effects and responses, which are essential KS4 examination skills.

The article used for the student task is modified from articles in the Times and Guardian newspapers.

- www.thetimes.co.uk/article/water-supply-to-be-cut-for-1-5m-romans-amid-italian-drought-tgc6d5fq2
- www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/24/rome-water-rationing-italy-suffers-driest-spring-60-years-fountain

Two additional free articles are available at:

- www.thelocal.it/20170410/alarm-over-drought-across-northern-italy
- www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-drought-rome-idUSKBN1A70GE

Questions asking students to distinguish between the cause, effect and response are common in KS4 examinations. The feedback from senior examiners in the annual report on the examinations frequently states that candidates are unable to make these distinctions, e.g.

‘Effects invited students to describe impacts such as deaths, injuries, buildings and roads collapsing ... Yet the vast majority of students answered a different question, covering either the responses rather than the effects or giving reasons why the effects were more severe in a poorer area’.

The resource could also be used to demonstrate that these questions allow different levels of response. Task 1, for example, *Identify the causes of the drought*, allows the following possibilities:

- **An incomplete and incorrect response:**
There is going to be a water shortage in Rome and tomato farmers have lost income. The fountains in Rome are being turned off.
- **A basic response with a partial explanation and/or an incomplete sequence:**
The drought in Italy is caused by a lack of rainfall. There is going to be a massive environmental disaster.
- **A clear explanation with a complete sequence and developed and linked points:**
The drought in Italy has been caused by a lack of rainfall and higher than average temperatures. Rainfall has been up to 80% less than normal in the spring across Italy.
- **A detailed explanation showing a detailed understanding with accurate information:**
The drought is linked to climate change and global warming. This has caused up to 80% less rainfall than normal this spring across Italy. Maximum temperatures in Italy are 2.5°C above the average for the time of year.

The above responses are provided on the accompanying PowerPoint. Students could be asked to say WWW and EBI and possibly assign marks out of six for each answer.

They could then write their own response to this question or for a similar effects or responses based question.