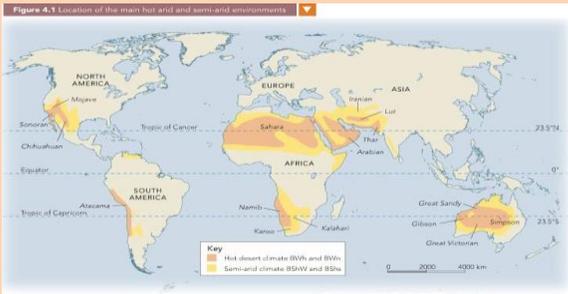




Year 9 Geography- Drought

Arid environments - Distribution



- Found between **20 degrees and 50 degrees latitude**
- Form two bands across **the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**
- Areas of high pressure (air is sinking)

Tropical Storm- Developed Country- California, USA 2014

- Reduced rainfall in recent years has reduced the water available.
- California relies on water from the Colorado river, but other states rely on this water too.
- Impacts: Increase in wildfires destroys homes and risks lives
-  Californian farms lost US\$1.8 billion due to crop failures
-  Increase in wildfires destroys homes and risks lives
-  Response: The government has given relief funds totalling over \$900million
- The government has given relief funds totalling over \$900million

Causes of drought

- As global temperatures increase, there is more evaporation so water stores dry up
- If trees are removed, there is less evapotranspiration (trees give out water vapour) so there is less precipitation



Impacts of drought

- Drought causes crops to fail so food prices rise. Poor people may starve due to not being able to afford these price
- People are forced to migrate to find clean water



Tropical Storm- Developing Country- Namibia, 2013

- Climate change is causing increased temperatures and irregular precipitation.
- The 2013 drought was the worst drought in 30 years
- Impacts: One in three people were at risk of malnutrition
-  Crop failures led to a loss of income for farmers
-  Desertification has turned grassy areas into desert.
-  Responses: The President requested \$1million of international aid from developed countries.
- People have migrated to towns and cities in search of work.

Key Vocabulary

Arid environment	An area/environment experiencing very low rainfall annually (Less than 250mm).
Drought	A prolonged period with little precipitation (rainfall) leading to water shortage.
Meteorological cause	A factor which is to do with the weather of an area e.g. Consistently high temperatures causing increased evaporation.
Hydrological cause	A factor which is linked to the water cycle e.g. when a decrease in precipitation can have an impact on reservoirs, lakes and ground water.
Migration	Movement of people from one place to another.
Wildfires	A large destructive fire that spreads quickly and uncontrollably.
Crop failure	A situation whereby all crops on a farm are lost.
Malnutrition	lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat or not eating enough of the right things.
Desertification	The process by which fertile land becomes desert.
Relief fund	A fund of money set up to provide aid for people in need.