

Klassenarbeit A

Gesamtpunktzahl / 64

1 READING Problems in California

/ 12

Read the following article that you found in a students' magazine.

Can fires, droughts, and earthquakes¹ be prevented?

The Golden State might be a number-one vacation destination for many people, but it's not all glamour, movie stars, and sunny beaches. For some years the state has had to deal with a long list of environmental problems and natural disasters, many of them very bad. Below we describe what's happening and what can be done to improve things.

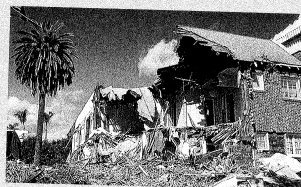
One of the worst weather changes that has affected² California in the last few years is drought and water shortages³. In other words, the state is too dry and it isn't getting enough rain or snow. Especially in the Sierra Nevada mountains snow hasn't been falling. This affects how much water is available in the whole state, because a lot of California's water comes from the deep snow in the mountains. What usually happens is that this snow melts in the spring and flows into the state's rivers and lakes. Some time ago experts warned that if it didn't rain, California would only have enough usable water for one year! The government asked people to save⁴ water by using less of it at home. That means being careful when watering the garden or cooking and cleaning, and taking shorter showers. But public places like golf courses use a lot of water too, and California's farms use 80 percent of the state's available water. It seems that saving water at home isn't enough – public places and farms must also try not to use too much water.

What happens when a sunny, dry state gets too hot? That's right: Wildfires get out of control. Wildfires are common and happen every year, but they seem to be getting worse. The fire season of 2015 was one of the worst ever in California, mainly because of the drought in the west of the state. When there isn't enough water, the trees and plants get too dry and if they catch fire, they burn very fast. The summer of 2015 was also one of the hottest ever, so it's no wonder that so many wildfires became so dangerous so quickly. The government gives a lot

of information to people so that they can help to prevent wildfires. It's important to be very careful if you light a campfire in the countryside, because when a fire gets out of control it can be very difficult to stop it.

Another problem that California is known for is earthquakes. In 1906 there was one in San Francisco. Some of the city's buildings collapsed and many of them were destroyed in the fires that burned for days afterwards. It wasn't the falling buildings, but the fires that led to most of the deaths – about 500 people. In 1994 there was a big earthquake near Los Angeles. The streets looked terrible: Roads, car parks, and office buildings collapsed, and many apartment buildings were hit so badly that they weren't safe to live in anymore. But the 1994 earthquake showed that there had been some improvements since earlier earthquakes: Some of the buildings had been better prepared to survive the shaking, and the police, firefighters, and emergency doctors had all had good training, so they knew exactly what to do. The good news is that although we can't prevent earthquakes, we can plan for them. The most important thing is to be ready: All families should have an emergency kit – a big bag with all the things they might need, for example, medicine, blankets⁵, bottled water, tinned food (and something to open it with), a torch, a radio, batteries, toilet paper, and soap.

Whatever the problem – whether it's a drought, a fire, or an earthquake – being prepared is the first step.



¹ earthquake: a shaking of the ground caused by the moving earth ² noun: effect, verb: (to) affect

³ shortage: if there is not enough of something ⁴ (to) save: to use as little as possible

⁵ blanket: something to cover yourself with in order to keep you warm

3

Unit

a) Now decide whether these statements are **Right** or **Wrong**.

/8

Right Wrong

- 1 California has experienced more and more environmental problems for some years.
- 2 Because of very little rainfall there is not as much water these days as there was before.
- 3 What people can do at home to use less water is enough to solve the problem.
- 4 Most of the wildfires start because people don't behave in a careful way when they are outdoors.
- 5 People are still allowed to make campfires if they take special care.
- 6 At the beginning of the 20th century the shaking of the earth was the reason why most buildings collapsed and people died in the city of San Francisco.
- 7 Earthquakes happen in California from time to time.
- 8 People have learned from earthquakes how to be better prepared in case of an emergency.

C

○

C

○

00

00

C

0

Q

○

○

0

○

○

0

b) Look at the wrong sentences again and correct them with information from the text. Write sentences using your own words.

/ 4

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

4 LANGUAGE Sunny California

/11

a) Read the text and complete it with the passive of the verbs in the box.

Use the simple present or the simple past.

There are more verbs in the box than you need.

/8

find • choose • visit • tell • call • attract •
build • support • found • sell

1 California is a sunny and dry state with lots of sandy beaches and interesting landscapes.

That's why it _____ the Golden State.

2 It _____ to the USA in 1848 by the Mexicans

and became a state in 1850.

3 People needed another four years before Sacramento _____

as the capital of the state.

4 So this is the place where the state capitol _____

then and is located now.

5 At that time gold _____ in California.

This was the reason why many towns along the west coast _____

by people looking for gold.

6 Today cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco _____

by thousands of American and foreign tourists each year.

7 Many national parks are especially interesting because of their beautiful landscapes.

Visitors _____ by rangers to stay on the paths

to protect the beauty and wildlife.

b) Now look at the rest of the text and complete it with the passive forms of the verbs in the box and use the present perfect. There are more verbs in the box than you need.

/3

set up • tutor • change • ask

8 Although the environment _____ by drought,

water shortage and wildfires, tourists still like to spend their vacation in California.

9 Signs _____ by the government to warn people of the dangers.

10 Guests _____ to be especially careful when making a campfire.

3 LANGUAGE The teacher asked us to ...

/10

Today a group of students is on a day trip to San Francisco.
 Their teacher asks them to do several things. Complete the sentences.
 Use verb + object + to-infinitive.



- 1 Stay in groups of three. – She asks _____

- 2 Sarah, use the map to find your way around. – She tells _____

- 3 Sally and Pete, be careful with your bags when you are in a crowd. – She advises _____

- 4 Phone me in case of an emergency! – She wants _____

- 5 Meet me at Market Street at 5 o'clock in the afternoon! – She expects _____

4 LANGUAGE At the visitor center

/12

At the Golden Gate Bridge Visitor Center Paul asks for information and later talks to his parents about it. He doesn't want to repeat the word 'ranger' and therefore uses the personal passive. Re-write his sentences.

Example: The ranger gave me really useful information.

I was given really useful information.



1 He told me to have a look at the different programmes.

2 The rangers give various talks.

3 The ranger promised that I would learn a lot about the history of the Golden Gate Bridge at the museum.

4 They are sending us to the theatre now.

5 They will show a film about the construction of the bridge there.

6 The ranger offered us the last three tickets for this show.
