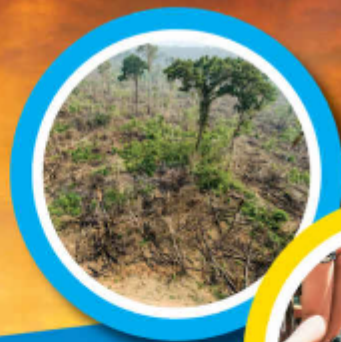


A **TRUE** BOOK™

**NATURAL
DISASTER!**

All About Heat Waves and Droughts

Discovering Earth's
Scorching Weather



Steve Tomecek

 SCHOLASTIC

A **TRUE** BOOK™

NATURAL DISASTER!

All About Heat Waves and Droughts

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Children's Press®
An imprint of Scholastic Inc.

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Dedication: *In memory of Dr. John Loret and Dr. Walter S. Newman, two visionary scientists who taught me to think about the future of our planet.*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Tomecek, Steve, author.

Title: All about heat waves and droughts / by Steve Tomecek.

Description: First edition. | New York : Children's Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2021. | Series: A true book: natural disaster! | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Audience: Ages 8–10. | Audience: Grades 4–6. | Summary: "This book shows readers the awesome power of heat waves and droughts"— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021003964 (print) | LCCN 2021003965 (ebook) | ISBN 9781338769579 (library binding) | ISBN 9781338769586 (paperback) | ISBN 9781338769593 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Heat waves (Meteorology)—Juvenile literature. | Climatic changes—Juvenile literature. | Droughts—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QC981.8.A5 T66 2021 (print) | LCC QC981.8.A5 (ebook) | DDC 551.5/253—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021003964>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021003965>

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First edition, 2022

Series produced by Priyanka Lamichhane

Book design by Kathleen Petelinsek

Illustrations on pages 42–43 by Gary LaCoste

Front cover: Background: Extreme heat and drought scorches the landscape, causing cracks in the dry ground; top: Drought takes hold in an area of the Amazon rain forest; top right: A child watches an egg on a sidewalk to see if it will cook on hot pavement during a heat wave; bottom: Wildfires burn trees as firefighters try to contain them.

Back cover: Extreme heat causes the road to crack on a highway.

Find the Truth!

Everything you are about to read is true *except* for one of the sentences on this page.

Which one is **TRUE**?

T or F Sometimes human activity can cause droughts to happen.

T or F Heat waves only happen in the summer.

Find the answers in this book.



What's in This Book?

Weather to the Extreme 6

1 The Wonders of Weather

What happens to the weather and climate to cause heat waves and droughts? 9

2 The Heat Is On

What are heat waves and what problems do they cause? 15

3 When Droughts Happen

Why do droughts happen and how do they hurt people, animals, and nature? 21



Trees have rings that give clues about when droughts happened in the past.

The **BIG** Truth

Droughts in the Rain Forest

It is important to stay cool when it's very hot outside.



What happens when a rain forest has a drought? 26

4 Keeping Your Cool

How can you protect yourself from heat waves and droughts? 29

5 What the Future Holds

What can people do to help reduce the number of heat waves and droughts? 35

Think Like a Scientist 40

Activity: Measuring Evaporation ... 42

True Statistics 44

Resources 45

Glossary 46

Index 47

About the Author 48

A rain gauge measures rainfall.

