



In The News

Current Events in Earth & Space Science

Summaries for the Classroom

Summer 2011 Heat Wave

Extreme heat was felt across the United States in the summer of 2011, breaking and setting new records for daytime and evening temperatures. A heat wave is a natural disaster, a “silent killer” for people that are caught unprepared. The impact is being felt beyond humans, and will be felt beyond 2011.

Articles to Share with Students

Heat Wave Sweeps Across the U.S. - NOAA
<http://www.noaa.gov/heat/index.html>

Heat: The “Most Dangerous Natural Disaster” - NPR
<http://www.npr.org/2011/07/23/138626251/heat-the-most-dangerous-natural-disaster>

Massive Heat Wave Could Cause Corn Prices to Pop – NPR
<http://www.npr.org/2011/07/23/138618976/massive-heat-wave-could-cause-corn-prices-to-pop>

Heat Waves and Extremely High Temperatures could be Commonplace in the U.S. by 2039, Stanford Study Finds
<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2010/july/extreme-heat-study-070810.html>

General Information

Heat Wave: A Major Summer Killer - NOAA
<http://www.noaawatch.gov/themes/heat.php>

Temperature – New York Times Science Topics
<http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/news/science/topics/temperature/index.html>

Heat – NPR broadcasts and stories
<http://www.npr.org/search/index.php?searchinput=heat>

Questions for Classroom Discussion

- Define heat wave.
- Why does a heat wave occur? Where geographically can a heat wave occur?
- How do heat waves impact humans?
- How do heat waves impact the environment?
- Why should scientists study heat waves?
- Will we experience more heat waves in the future? Explain.

Compiled July 23, 2011, by L.A. Guertin