

1977

NSTA Conference

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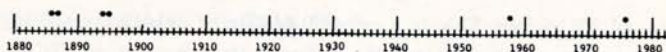


Fig. 1. Years of Annual Rainfall Less Than 17 Inches.

Summary

Past records indicate dramatic fluctuations in Iowa's climate. Core samplings from Lake Okoboji indicate wide fluctuation in the lake level in recent geologic times. Better knowledge of Iowa's weather patterns could help agriculturists implement better farming practices to increase and sustain crop yields, an important factor in a world with marginal food reserves. Possibly planning for government grain reserves would be better accepted by the public if more were known about cyclic weather patterns.

By introducing the study of local weather records, students were made aware of cyclic weather phenomena and were provided a basis for interesting classroom discussions. Precipitation charts for your area can be obtained for a nominal fee by writing the U.S. Weather Bureau, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. Now is the time for teaching about drought.

Reference

R. Reynolds. 1976. The almighty rhythm of climate. *The Furrow* 81:2-5.

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NSTA Conference

The NSTA Area Conference will be held in San Francisco on October 13 and 15, 1977. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Diane R. Conradson, Department of Natural Science, San Jose State University, San Jose, California 95192.

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Household Energy Game

A 20-page booklet telling how to compute family energy consumption with a game grid pitting individual versus national consumption is available from Sea Grant, 1800 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 54706. Single copies are free, additional copies cost ten cents each.

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To a mouse, a bat is just an angel.