



Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain

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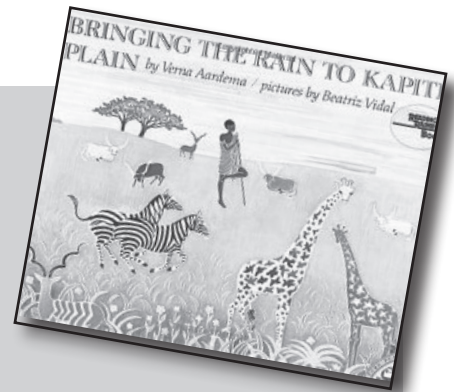
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Major Topics:

Environment – Interdependency, Changes

**Organisms – Animals, Plants, Basic Needs,
Behavior, Habitats**

Weather – Rain, Drought, Environment Changes



National Science Education Content Standards (1996)

Life Science

- The Characteristics of Organisms
- Organisms and Their Environments

Earth and Space Science

- Changes in the Earth and Sky
- Objects in the Sky

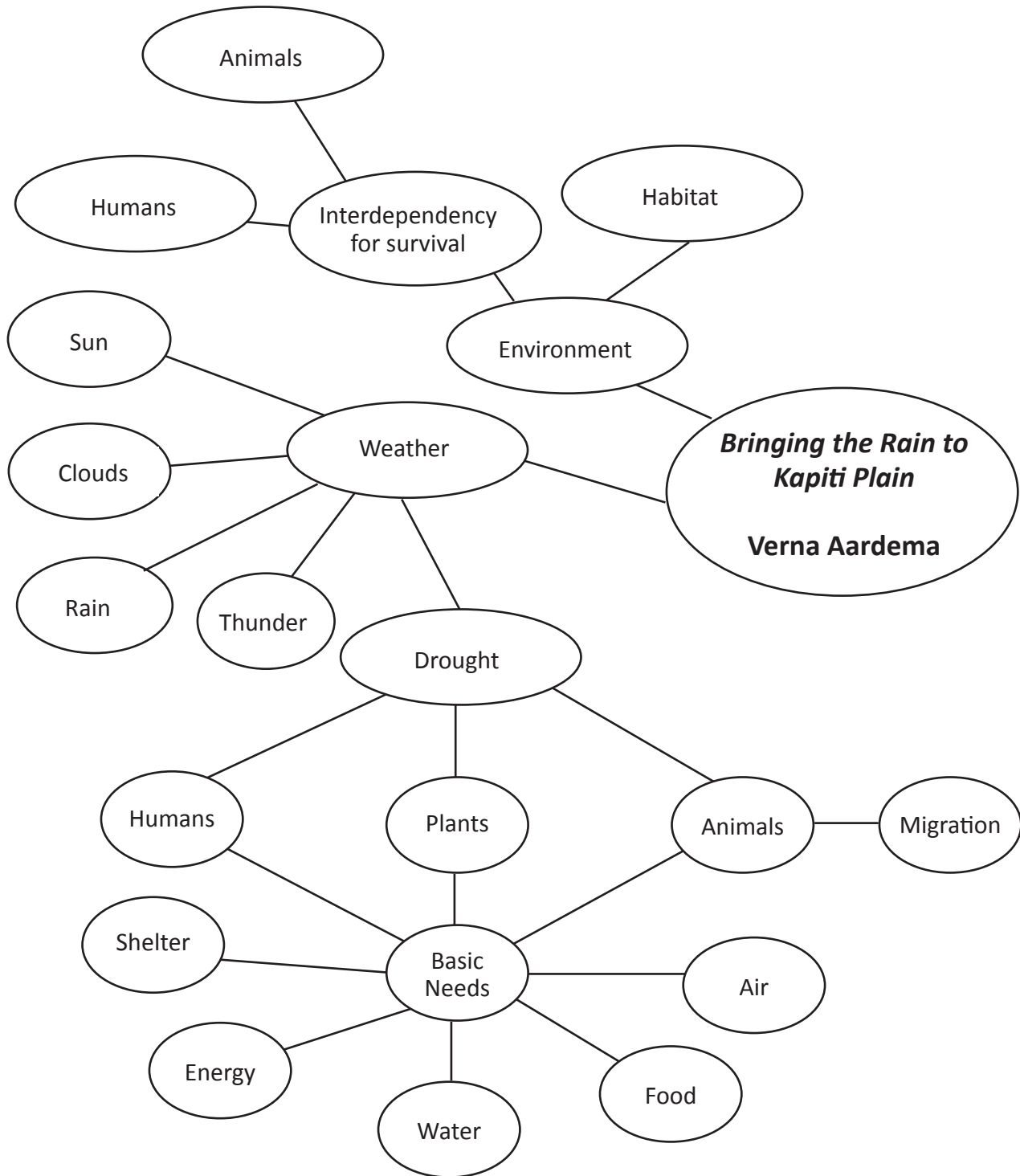
Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

- Types of Resources
- Changes in the Environment

Summary:

This Nandi tale explains the importance of rain to the survival of the Kapiti Plain in Africa. One year, the rains are long overdue. The Kapiti Plain is dry and the grass has turned brown and dead — leaving the animals hungry and dry. Ki-pat, the herdsman, is watching his herd as a big cloud heavy with rain looms overhead. Ki-pat creates an arrow from an eagle feather and pierces the cloud releasing the much needed rain onto Kapiti Plain. The rain revives the Kapiti Plain including the grass, the animals, and the people. They all thrive as the Kapiti Plain rebalances.

Science Concept Map





Thinking Questions Based on Bloom's Taxonomy: *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain*

- 1. Knowledge:**

Where does this story take place? What lives in the Kapiti Plain? What was the problem in the story? Who solves the problem? What was affected by the drought? What resources did Ki-pat use to make his arrow?
- 2. Comprehension:**

Explain why the animals had started to migrate from the Kapiti Plain. Describe the characteristics of an African plain. How does Ki-pat solve the problem in the story? How did piercing the cloud help the Kapiti Plain? Why is rain important to the Kapiti Plain?
- 3. Application:**

In this story, there is a dark, heavy cloud covering the Kapiti Plain. What does seeing this cloud predict about the weather? Give examples of other ways you know rain and other types of weather are coming. Predict how your life would be different if there was a drought in your community. How would you and the local environment be affected?
- 4. Analysis:**

Compare and contrast the Kapiti Plain during the drought and after the rain (consider the animals and plants of the Plain). Ki-pat pierced the cloud with an arrow to cause the rain to fall. Is this really how it rains? Explain. Compare and contrast the Kapiti Plain with where you live. How does each habitat meet the needs of its inhabitants?
- 5. Synthesis:**

Explain the interdependency of the plants, people, and animals of the Kapiti Plain. Determine what would happen if the drought continued. Rain was critical to the survival of the Kapiti Plain. How is rain important to you and where you live? How are rain and the water cycle important for the survival of all living things? How do other types of weather affect your daily life?
- 6. Evaluation:**

In your opinion, which one is more destructive, a drought or a flood? Explain your reasoning. Ki-pat stayed to help the animals and the Kapiti Plain. Would you stay or leave? Explain.



Follow-Up Activities

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain

- Have students create a rhyme or poem about a form of weather (rain, snow, wind, sunshine, etc.). Think about all of their senses and the effects of the weather on the environment and their lives.
- Have students research and recommend ways they can conserve water in their homes and schools. Investigate the history of droughts in the local area and how the community dealt with the severe weather. Present their findings in a variety of ways.
- Simulate a mini-drought experiment using two plants. Water one plant regularly and the other plant very little. Chart what happens to each plant over time to see the effects of the different levels of water on the plants. Analyze and synthesize the data to foster understanding.
- Ask students to invent a tool or object that could help with issues related to weather, similar to Ki-Pat's arrow. These items could be realistic or more imaginative. Use a variety of resources and report on the origins of the resources, as well as the purpose of the invention. Share the inventions in a variety of ways.
- Dramatize the story of *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain*. Pay close attention to the various roles and changes with the different plants and animals. Have students become experts on their roles in order to bring their parts to life.
- Observe the schoolyard and/or location in the community throughout the year. Pay close attention to the effects of the weather on the organisms and the habitat. Collect and share the data in a variety of formats, including digital imagery and science logs.
- Study other legends regarding scientific topics. Compare and contrast legends with factual/scientific reasoning. Consider the cultural significance of legends and create their own legend regarding a science topic of interest. Publish these in a book format.
- Research other specific interests, curiosities, and general information about the basic needs of organisms, African habitats, interdependency of organisms and environment, and severe weather. Provide and encourage the use of multiple sources of information. Have students share their learning in a variety of ways.