PART B: Recent Droughts

1. After comparing the notable drought years with other years in the animation, describe what you would consider as the criteria for designating a year as a drought year or not.

2. Consider how measurements of tree-ring widths taken from trees at PDSI-reconstruction gridpoints can result in the reconstructed maps. Describe a method that could be used to produce the maps.

3. Why do you think there is data from only certain parts of the continent for certain time periods?

4. Based on your comparison of reconstructed and instrumentally derived drought maps, describe how confident you are in the accuracy of the reconstructed maps. Give examples to support your answer.
PART C: How Common Is Drought?

5. By visual inspection, which decade of the 1900s appears to have had the most drought days? Which decade appears to have had the fewest?

6. As each year has 365 days and each decade has 10 years, what is the minimum number of days in the 1930s that the black areas such as Nebraska and Kansas experienced severe or extreme drought during that decade?

7. If you were to select a state or river basin to start or invest in a farm, which river basin would you choose to reduce your chances of dealing with a drought? Why?

8. Describe some of the research that groups are conducting to identify droughts in the past. Include brief descriptions of the methods that they are using to gather evidence.