

Catching the Fog

For most of us, fog is a type of weather. But for some people, fog is a source of water! In places where there isn't enough fresh water, people can collect the fog and turn it into water. How does all this work?

If you've ever walked through a patch of fog, you might have noticed that your skin and hair felt damp. This is because fog is actually made of tiny water droplets. Scientists are helping people collect these droplets to make drinking water. Often, these



people live in towns where there is no fresh water source. They rely on trucks to deliver fresh water, which is expensive. It's better for a town to be able to make its own fresh water.

People have always looked to rain as a source of fresh water. Since rain falls toward the ground, it can easily be collected into tanks. But the water droplets that make up fog don't hit the ground. Instead, they float in the air. Fog is a lot like a cloud that hovers close to the ground. To turn fog into water, you have to catch the water droplets.

A fog catcher is made of nets stretched between two posts. Usually the nets are set up on a hilltop or in a valley where fog often settles. As fog drifts by, the nets trap the water droplets. Beads of water run down the nets and collect into gutters. The gutters and pipes guide the water into large tanks where it can be stored. A fog catcher can collect up to 10,000 liters of water a day. Scientists have helped set up fog catchers for towns in Chile, Nepal, and Mexico.

Fog catchers are a great way for people in isolated towns to have their own fresh water source. Centuries before scientists created fog-catching nets, nature was making fog into water on its own. As fog passed through the mountains, large leaves trapped the droplets just like the nets do. Native people learned to drink the tiny pools of water that collected on the leaves. Thanks to modern fog catchers, enough water can be made to supply a whole town!

Read each sentence and check whether it gives the main idea of the passage or a supporting detail.

1. Fog is a lot like a cloud that hovers close to the ground.
2. A fog catcher can collect up to 10,000 liters of water a day.
3. Fog catchers are a great way for people in isolated towns to have their own fresh water source.
4. A fog catcher is made of nets stretched between two posts.
5. Scientists have helped set up fog catchers for towns in Chile, Nepal, and Mexico.
6. Native people learned to drink the tiny pools of water that collected on the leaves.
7. In places where there isn't enough fresh water, people can collect the fog and turn it into water.
8. Thanks to modern fog catchers, enough water can be made to supply a whole town!

Main Idea	Supporting Detail

