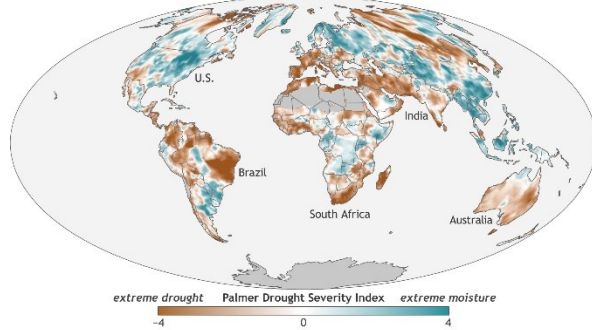


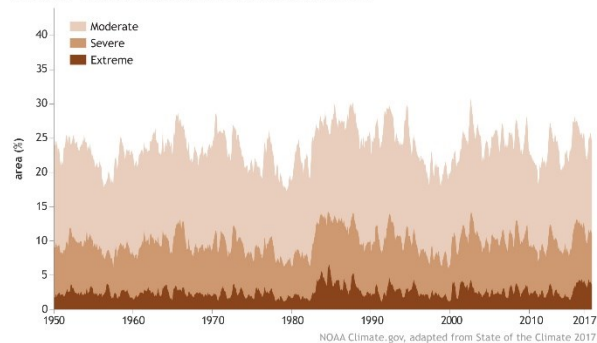
Describing a graph

Task: Complete the gaps in the text with the expressions in italics. You do not have to change the form of the words. You will use each word only once.

SEVERE/EXTREME DROUGHT EVERYWHERE EXCEPT NORTH AMERICA IN 2017



AREAS OF EXTREME DROUGHT ABOVE AVERAGE IN 2017



appear compared declined estimate experiencing extent greater increase overall reached whereas

Drought is a slow-moving natural disaster that can wither crops, threaten endangered species and other natural resources, and disrupt public water supplies. Drought can also (1) the likelihood of wildfires, pest infestations, even epidemics. In the U.S. and other countries with diverse and well-developed economies, drought's impacts on food security and economic hardship can often be mitigated by government programs and private insurance, (2) in other parts of the world, drought can lead to famine and can worsen civil conflict.

Adapted from the *State of the Climate in 2017*, this map shows global drought patterns in 2017 using an analysis called the self-calibrated Palmer Drought Severity Index. The index uses regional temperature and precipitation data to (3) dryness. In this map, dry conditions (4) in shades of brown, and wet conditions appear in shades of blue-green. The darker the colour, the (5)the intensity of wet or dry conditions, with near-normal conditions nearly white.

(6), it is clear that drought affected every continent except North America in 2017. Many coastal countries in Africa suffered drought, including the drought driving Cape Town water restrictions. An especially severe drought took hold in southwestern India. The graph shows the monthly percentage of global land area, excluding ice sheets and deserts, (7) moderate (beige), severe (tan), and extreme (brown) drought conditions since 1950. Global-scale drought conditions temporarily improved in early 2017 (8) to recent years. Global drought area (9) its highest level in several years starting in late 2015 and remained high throughout 2016, but rapidly (10) by early 2017.

Still, the area affected by drought in 2017 was above the 1901–2017 average. Extreme drought conditions affected at least 3 percent of the global land area in every month of 2017, an (11) that had only been observed in just a few prior years: 1984, 1985, and 2016. Global area affected by moderate and severe drought in 2017 was closer to the long-term average.

(adapted from <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/2017-state-climate-global-drought>)