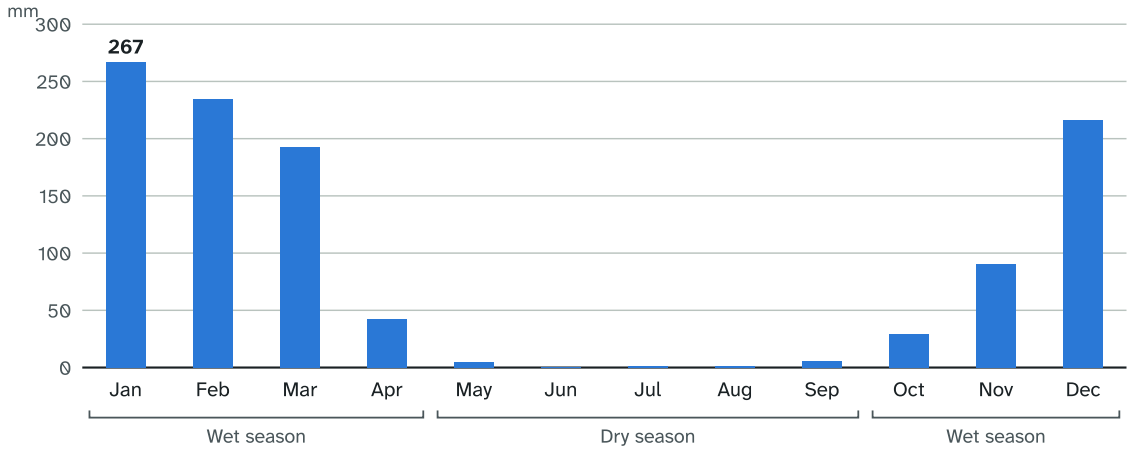
Katherine water inquiry.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Katherine, in the Northern Territory, has too much water in the wet season and depends on groundwater in the dry. Use the data to investigate both halves of the problem.

Part A · Rain, month by month



Average rainfall in each month, in millimetres. Bureau of Meteorology, Katherine Aviation Museum weather station.

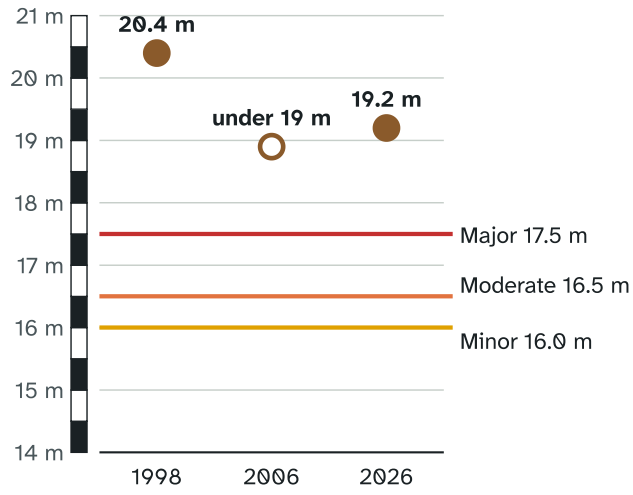
1 **Which month gets the most rain on average? About how much?**

2 **Which months get less than 10 mm of rain on average?**

3 **Describe the pattern of Katherine's rain through the year in one or two sentences.**

4 **The Katherine River keeps flowing from May to September. Where does its water come from?**

Part B · Read the flood gauge



Highest height the river reached in January 1998, April 2006 and March 2026, at the Katherine bridge gauge, with the Bureau of Meteorology's flood levels. The open circle is approximate.

5 **Which of the three floods rose highest, and how high did it go?**

6 **How many metres above the major flood level did the river rise in March 2026? Show your working.**

7 **In January 1998, 400 to 550 mm of rain fell on the river's catchment in 72 hours. Explain why rain that falls far upstream can flood the town.**

Part C · Plan a strategy for both halves of the problem

Choose one strategy for the dry season and one for floods. Write each in the table, then fill in its likely impacts. Use + for helps, – for harms and ± for mixed, and say why.

STRATEGIES YOU COULD CHOOSE

- Set a pumping limit each year, based on the last wet season's rain
- Stop any new pumping close to the river
- Fix leaking pipes and cut town water use
- Build more and higher levees
- Keep new homes and shops off the floodplain
- Better flood warnings and a flood plan for every household
- Raise houses above the flood level
- Your own idea

PROBLEM	MY STRATEGY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	PEOPLE
Too little: the dry season				
Too much: floods				

Part D · Justify your choices

I recommend … because … It will help … but …

FOR THE DRY SEASON

FOR FLOODS

Part E · Values check

Which values of the river does your strategy protect: economic, cultural, spiritual or aesthetic? Which might it harm, and for whom?

The 2026 flood is recent. If you or your family were affected, you do not have to share your own story.

Sources: Bureau of Meteorology; Katherine Times; Australian and NT governments