

H2O GO!

Unit 4: FLOODS-FLOODS HAPPEN

ABOUT THE UNIT

Floods happen—even in Boulder County. In 1894, a devastating flood hit Boulder, taking out bridges and literally cutting the town in half. In 1976, a massive flood ripped through the Big Thompson Canyon near Estes Park, killing 144 people. In this unit, students learn why floods happen, how to prepare for floods and what to do in a disaster.

GO

objectives

- Explore how floods occur and the potential flood risk in Boulder County and surrounding areas.
- Identify important actions to prepare students and families in the event of a flood.
- Understand the impact that human activities and land use have on flood risk.

teacher preparation

- Review all information provided in both the Teacher Guide and the Student Guide.
- Make necessary copies or overheads of the Floods Student Guide.
- Make necessary copies or overhead of “Disaster Supplies Kit Contents” in the Floods Teacher Guide.

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES!

www.boulderfloodinfo.net
www.usgs.gov/hazards/floods
www.basin.org
www.redcross.org
www.fema.gov



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ACTIVITY 1



FLOOD!-TXT THIS!

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

There is no better way for students to learn a subject than by translating a lesson into their own language. As part of this activity, students use text messaging to convey flood safety rules. Cell phones are not required.

my time

TXT (TXT=Text) message translation: 15 minutes; Discussion: 15-20 minutes

my materials

“Flood! TXT This!” in the Floods Student Guide

essential questions

- How can you prepare at home for a flash flood?
- What actions are critical to know if you’re outside walking/biking/riding in a car during a flood or heavy rain?

lifeskills

Acting quickly and appropriately during a flood can save a life. Students learn important actions to take during a life-threatening flood through this engaging TXT message exercise.

directions

- Have each student work individually or in a group to translate flood safety rules into TXT statements.
- Students should shorten statements as much as possible, but still get the message across.
- Have fun sharing the students’ creative TXT translations.



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ACTIVITY 2

WHERE RU? MEET U L8R... and GET YOUR KIT TOGETHER

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Understanding how to prepare for, communicate about, and act during a disaster saves lives. Few take the time to have the essential emergency items at home or an action plan in place before a disaster strikes. While this activity is focused on floods, the disaster kit and action plan can be just as useful in a snowstorm, wildfire, power outage or other unanticipated events.

my time

Classroom prep: 20 minutes; Take home: 30 minutes

my materials

“Where RU? Meet U L8R...” in the Floods Student Guide
“Get Your Kit Together” in the Floods Student Guide

essential questions

- Why be prepared for an event that may or may not happen?
- What is a flood action plan?
- What should you include in a 3 to 4 day disaster kit for your home?

lifeskills

When a disaster occurs, families scamper for flashlights, water, emergency radios, and food. This activity helps students get prepared for a flood by working with their families to put a disaster kit and a flood action plan together.

directions

Part 1: Where RU? Meet U L8R...

- Review the “Flood Action Plan” in “Where RU? Meet U L8R...” in the Floods Student Guide.
- Discuss why having a central place to meet might be important and how having an out-of-town person to call in case of emergency or separation might be helpful.
- Have your students fill out the “Flood Action Plan” at home with their family.

Part 2: Get Your Kit Together

- Guide a class discussion about what items and necessities students think they may need should disaster strike. Write down the list.
- What items do students think would be most important in a flood where the phone and power are out?
- Review the kit contents and the needs that the items address.
- Direct students to www.redcross.org to search for the “Disaster Supplies Kit” list or hand out the list to students.
- Compare the Red Cross list to the list the class developed. Did you miss anything?
- Have each student work with their family to gather kit supplies.



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ACTIVITY 2

DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

- 3 day supply of nonperishable food and manual can opener
- 3 day supply of water (at least 1 gal/person/day)
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Sanitation and hygiene items
- Matches in waterproof container
- Whistle
- Extra clothing and blankets
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils
- Photocopies of identification and credit cards
- Cash and coins
- Special needs items such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solution and hearing aid batteries
- Items for infants such as formula, diapers, bottles and pacifiers
- Tools, pet supplies, a map of the local area and other items to meet your unique family needs



FLASHLIGHT



FIRST AID KIT

ONE GALLON OF WATER
PER PERSON, PER DAY



MATCHES IN WATERPROOF CONTAINER

