

## Flood Lesson for Kids: Definition & Facts

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Why do floods happen? This lesson will teach you all about flooding and some of the causes of floods. You will also learn about some famous floods in history and problems that happen when flooding occurs.

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### What Is A Flood?

Have you ever heard a reporter talk about a flash flood warning on the news? A **flood** happens when water covers land that is usually dry. A flash flood is a term we use to describe a flood that happens very quickly in low-lying land, and it's usually caused by very heavy rains.

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### What Causes Floods?

The heavy rains that lead to flooding are typically caused by hurricanes and thunderstorms. During these storms' heavy rains, water pools up quickly and has nowhere to go--the ground becomes **saturated**, or full, of water and must rise. Steady rain *not* from a major storm can also cause flooding.

Floods can happen when levees and dams break (these are structures that keep water from flowing out of rivers and onto dry land). Flooding also occurs when snow or ice melts quickly in the winter.



*This flood happened because a river overflowed.*

## PROBLEMS FROM FLOODS

Sometimes, floods can be so severe that they cover entire houses and ruin the infrastructure of cities. Rescue teams have to come in and save people trapped on their roofs, and lives can be lost during these deadly situations.

But more commonly, floods are milder weather events that simply require us to avoid driving due to dangerous conditions. In fact, this is the most common problem with flooding, and just 6 inches of water is enough to make a car float!



*It is very dangerous to drive cars through flooded areas.*

Floods can also knock out power lines and cause people to lose energy in their homes. This makes it hard for people to stay warm and prepare food to eat. When the flooding stops, water sources like lakes and rivers are sometimes no longer safe to drink from. In these cases, people have to find other places to get their water and make sure not to drink water from the faucet until the areas have been cleaned up.

## Famous Floods

- The Yellow River in China experienced a series of floods in 1931, and they've gone down in history as the deadliest floods in the world. An estimated 3.7 million people lost their lives in the 1931 Yellow River floods. The Yellow River was also home to the world's second and third-deadliest floods in 1887 and 1938.



*The Yellow River in China experienced some of the deadliest floods in history.*



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## Additional Activities

### Floods: Cause and Effect Activity

In this activity, you'll check your knowledge regarding floods and the events that happen along with them.

### What would happen?

### Directions

For this activity, print or copy this page on a blank piece of paper. Then, carefully read the given **CAUSE** or **EFFECT** stated in each number. Provide the missing statements. Write your answer in the space provided.

### Sentences

1. CAUSE: It has been constantly raining in the town where Darcy lives. The weather report says that it may go on for a few more days.

EFFECT:

2. CAUSE:

EFFECT: The families could not prepare a nice warm meal for dinner.

3. CAUSE:

3. CAUSE:

EFFECT: People everywhere in town are vomiting and have severe stomach pains with fever.

4. CAUSE: Gary drives every day. When Gary got off work, the flood water in the parking lot was nearly 10 inches high.

EFFECT:

5. CAUSE: Meteorologists use technology and science to predict flooding.

EFFECT:

## Possible Answers:

1. The ground will get saturated with water and a flood may occur.
2. The power or energy lines are knocked out by the flood.
3. The water from the faucet is no longer safe to drink.
4. Gary will not be able to drive home safely.
5. People can prepare things they need to stay safe during a flood.

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