



SERIES Natural Disasters
TITLE Floods in Australia
AUTHOR John Lesley
PUBLISHER Redback Publishing
(Also online at REDeBOOKS.com.au)
PUBLICATION DATE April 2024
ISBN 978-0-994624-79-6
PRICE \$29.99
FORMAT Hardback, 277x223mm
EXTENT 32 pages, full-colour
GENRE Children's non fiction,
Geography
AGE SUITABILITY Interest age 7-12 years
READING AGE Primary school years 3 to 6
BIC/CBMC YQG/D5N79

ABOUT THE SERIES

Droughts, floods, cyclones and bushfires have influenced Australia for thousands of years. Some native plants and animals have even adapted to the unavoidable recurrence of these destructive forces of nature. How is climate change affecting these cycles of nature, and how are Australia's farms, cities and bushland affected?

ABOUT THE BOOK

Floods periodically create devastation across parts of Australia, where they destroy towns, take lives and ruin farming land. The increasing urbanisation of Australia has contributed to flooding that creates misery and hardship.

Floods have always been a part of the Australian landscape, and, despite their destructive power, they also bring water to parched deserts and dry lakes. Over millions of years, plants and wildlife have adapted to the regular floods, and some even depend on them for their continued survival.



CONTENTS

What is a Flood?
Types of Floods
Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre
Safety in Floods
Emergency Services

After the Flood
Cyclones and Floods
History of Floods
Worst Floods
Climate Change

Wildlife and Floods
1 in 100 Year Flood
Glossary
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TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations of actual floods that have occurred all across Australia accompany a text that is written to be clear and appealing to young readers in middle to upper primary school.

As the water level slowly rises across each page, the reader can see how floods affect people, animals and landscapes. The causes of flooding across Australia, and its historical importance for both the natural and the built environments, are revealed in images, graphics and text that is presented in colourful text boxes.

A guide to staying safe in flood emergencies is a useful addition that gives the reader practical tips on what to do when the water starts to rise.



IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

MAKE YOUR OWN FLOOD SAFETY POSTER or SOCIAL MEDIA ARTICLE

Aims of This Activity

- Investigate the main points that would help a person deal with a natural disaster such as a flood.
- Think about the type of media and presentation that would be most easily understood by the majority of the population.
- Understand the situations in which words can be a barrier to understanding.

Procedure

1. Go to pages 12 and 13 of *Floods* by John Lesley.
2. Read the information about how to stay safe if you are in or near flooding water.
3. Make your own poster based on the information you have read, or write a social media article.
4. Talk about where the poster could be displayed, or what social media would be best for this purpose.

DISCUSS RECOVERY FROM A FLOOD

Aims of This Activity

- Know what can help make a community resilient to natural disasters.
- Become aware that all experiences are not the same or of the same intensity.
- Help build resilience in children faced with natural disasters.

Procedure

1. Have a class discussion about what happens after a flood is over.
2. Discuss the outcomes for households, businesses and schools.
3. Talk about the effect on plants and animals in the wild, and compare that with the effect on farmers and their livestock and crops.
4. Discuss the mental effect on people.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

YEAR 4

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES
(AC9S4U02) water cycle

YEAR 5

GEOGRAPHY (AC9HS5K05)
management of Australian
environments

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES
(AC9S5U02) weathering, erosion,
transportation and deposition

YEAR 6

SCIENCE AS A HUMAN
ENDEAVOUR (ACSHE100)





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