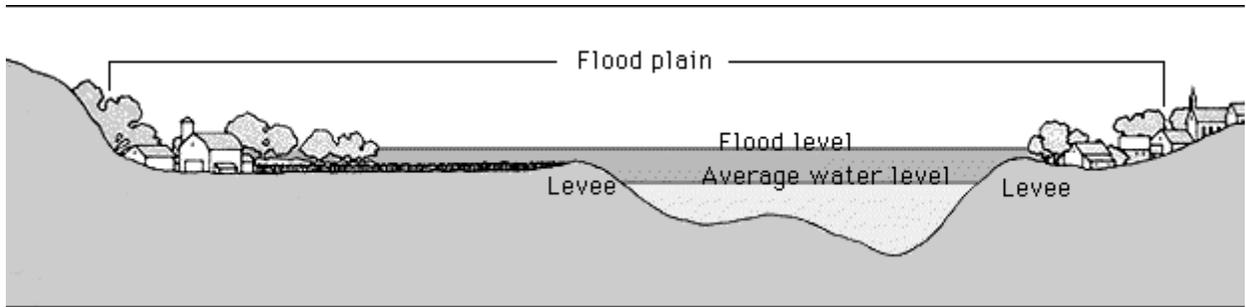


Earth Science Floods



When dry land is covered by water, we call it a flood. Floods are very dangerous. If they are very bad, homes can be destroyed, and people can die. Floods can happen from three different sources;¹ an ocean, a river or a lake. Floods begin when too much water is flowing in an area that cannot support it. Heavy rain, snow and ice all cause floods. In the picture above, you can see that the flood level rises above the banks of the river. At first, it covers land where no people live, but as it gets higher, it can affect land where people reside.² Homes and cars can be washed away, and people can drown.

There are several ways to protect our land and people from floods. Dams keep water from rushing downstream. Channels filter³ the water out to sea in safe amounts. Dikes, flood wall and levees,⁴ when built; help keep water off the land. We also have systems for warning people about floods that are coming. This way, less people and property are affected.

¹ **sources** – where something comes from

² **reside** – to live in a certain place

³ **filter** – to pass slowly through

⁴ **levees** – a bank built along a river to keep it from flooding

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. A flood happens when
 - a. there isn't enough rain.
 - b. there is too much rain.
 - c. there is a normal amount of rain.
 - d. dams are built.

2. Which of the following are used to protect people from floods?
 - a. Dams and banks.
 - b. Levees and snow.
 - c. Dikes and flood walls.
 - d. Oceans and channels.

3. In this passage a channel is
 - a. a path for water.
 - b. a new station.
 - c. a television station.
 - d. a psychic's vision.

4. Overall, the author seems to feel that floods are
 - a. harmless.
 - b. harmful.
 - c. exciting.
 - d. manageable.

5. It rained hard for five straight days. The river overflowed and water flooded the town.
 - a. the first sentence describes the effect of what happened in the first sentence.
 - b. the second sentence describes the effect of what happened in the first sentence.
 - c. the first sentence describes a problem and the second sentence describes the solution.
 - d. the second sentence describes a problem and the first sentence describes the solution.

6. Why are floods dangerous?

7. Where might a flood start and why?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence:

_____ to the imminent threat of a flood, the authorities told the citizens to evacuate their homes.

- a. So
- b. While
- c. Due
- d. Because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below:

A flood occurs when the water level of an ocean, river or lake drastically increases due to heavy rain, snow or ice and overflows onto surrounding land.

What? a flood

(does) what? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** reside: to be situated or live in a given place.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 720

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: A flood occurs when water excessively covers dry land. Floods can be dangerous, but may be prevented using dams, flood walls and levees. Authorities may also implement a warning system to limit the negative effects of floods.

1. A flood happens when
 - a. there isn't enough rain.
 - b. there is too much rain.**
 - c. there is a normal amount of rain.
 - d. dams are built.

2. Which of the following are used to protect people from floods?
 - a. Dams and banks.
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 - a. the first sentence describes the effect of what happened in the first sentence.
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 - c. the first sentence describes a problem and the second sentence describes the solution.

d. the second sentence describes a problem and the first sentence describes the solution.

6. Why are floods dangerous?

Suggested answer: Because floods can destroy people's property, including homes and other valuables. Furthermore, severe floods can in some cases lead to death.

7. Where might a flood start and why?

Suggested answer: Floods might originate from bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, and oceans, after heavy rain causes water levels to rise.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence:

_____ to the imminent threat of a flood, the authorities told the citizens to evacuate their homes.

- a. So
- b. While
- c. **Due**
- d. Because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below:

A flood occurs when the water level of an ocean, river or lake drastically increases due to heavy rain, snow or ice and overflows onto surrounding land.

What? a flood

(does) what? **occurs**

When? **when the water level of an ocean, river, or lake drastically increases**

Why? **due to heavy rain, snow or ice**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** reside: to be situated or live in a given place.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.