



## Why does flooding occur?



**Description:** Find out as much as possible about floods – when, how and why they occur.

**QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:**

Year 3 Unit 16: What's in the news?

**National Curriculum Geography reference:**

1a, 2a, 2d, 2e, 3e, 4b

**QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:**

Year 3 Unit 3A: Combining text and graphics

**Learning Objectives:** Pupils should be taught to understand the sequence of events that can cause a flood and the effects of flooding.

**Suggested activities:**

**Introduction:** Start with some photographs of flooded areas in the UK (ideally near to the school locality) and ask the children to comment on how these flooded areas are affecting animals, people, transport, businesses and homes. Record what the children think.

**Main:** Using ICT websites and/or other news reports on flooding ask the children to read the articles and extract as much information as to what has caused the particular flood problem and any measures that people have taken to help. The latter could be extended to allow children to classify the news comments into before, during and after categories. The recording sheet 3c1 will help the children to record their findings in a structured way.

**Extension:** Children could act as a local newspaper reporter and write a report around a specific flood photograph – links to Literacy 'Writing for a specific audience'.

**Notes:** The news articles will need to be checked for suitable vocabulary and possibly rewritten to allow the children to use this material. On the website below there are a large number of BBC news stories and careful selection is needed to provide the children with contrasting evidence.

**Resources:**

Newspaper articles on flooding

Photographs of floods

Websites:

- <http://newssearch.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/results.pl?tab=news&meta=cr%3DcountryUK%7CcountryGB&q=flooding%2F&scope=news> - BBC news reports on flooding
- <http://www.sln.org.uk/geography/Flood2000.htm> - Lots of flood reports/images

**Learning outcomes:**

- Understand the environmental impact of flooding
- Obtain news information using ICT and other secondary sources
- Understand some of the reasons why floods occur

**Extension activities:**

Compare and contrast the impact of flooding in the UK with a developing country like Bangladesh (<http://www.cafod.org.uk/news/floods20001010.shtml>). Why is flooding more devastating in India/Bangladesh than in the UK?