Mountain weather and its influence on flooding

Description: Understanding how a mountainous environment can increase or decrease the risk of flooding.

QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:	National Curriculum Geography reference:	QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:
Year 6 Unit 15: The mountain environment		Year 6 Unit 6A: Multimedia presentation

Learning Objectives: Pupils should be taught to recognise the part that a mountainous environment can have on both reducing and increasing the risk of flooding.

Suggested activities:

Introduction: On a world map locate all the areas that can be classified as mountainous.

Main: Compare and contrast climatic data for a mountainous and lowland area for the same country. Account for why these differences occur. Why does winter rainfall not appear immediately as river discharge? Why are spring river discharge levels high in mountainous areas? When do you think is the greatest risk of flooding? How do you think spring discharge levels could be controlled in mountainous environments?

Resources:
Atlas or http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html world maps
Website: http://www.worldclimate.com/ world climate data
ICT: Internet connection, data-handling package capable of displaying results as bar charts.

Learning outcomes:

- Flooding patterns associated with mountainous environments
- Using ICT to find information

Extension activities:

Children could create a Powerpoint presentation on a world region and use it to illustrate the differences between mountainous and lowland river discharge. They should then present their findings to the rest of the class.