



Are you flood ready?

Lesson 3: What kinds of flood risk do we face in our own school and homes?

Key Ideas:

- All buildings face some kind of flood risk, including students' current school and home.
- Small amounts of water can do a lot of damage to the fixtures and fittings of a typical home or school.

Starter activity:

What's our risk?

After a reminder of what risk means (reuse PowerPoint or interactive resource from lesson 2), use of existing geography department resources may show the site and situation of the school – from which possible risks can be identified. Or this may need to be tackled from scratch using an OS map of the school and its environs. This analysis may be widened to show the settlement to which the school belongs. Typically, a flood plain, coast line or low-lying / poorly drained areas will be identified as well as human causes (plumbing and drains). A worksheet is provided to guide students through this activity.

The Environment Agency's Flood Map service (link provided on module plan) allows you to enter a postcode to see whether your home or school is at risk from river or coastal flooding.

Main activity:

What damage would water do to our school or homes?

After watching a video that shows what a few centimetres of water damage can do (link provided on module plan), the class can move onto their own risk assessment of a building they are familiar with. This may be home, school or other. A ground floor classroom could be best; allowing students to move around the space and think critically about what damage small amounts of water might do, compared with a larger inundation. Amongst the questions to be investigated are:

- At what height would water get into the electric sockets?
- Are carpets and rugs at risk?
- What will happen to big expensive items like TV sets?

A flood risk assessment form can be downloaded as a Word document may. After the students have completed their assessment, ask them: what does this tell you? Does 100 cm of water do 100 times more damage than 1 cm? Or can small amounts of water still do a lot more damage?

Plenary:

Irreplaceable items

The lesson ends with some thought being given to things that could not be replaced, even with insurance money, in the event of a flood. A PowerPoint presentation is available to accompany this part of the lesson. This will build awareness of how home-owners in areas with a flood risk should think carefully about where they store valuable possessions.