



## Are you flood ready?

### Lesson 4: Flood proof homes

#### Key Ideas:

- A range of adaptive measures are available to help families build up their own levels of flood resilience.
- The human ability to adapt to risk is something we hold in common with many other peoples living in different places, all of whom are facing their own challenges.

#### Starter activity:

*What do we mean by RESILIENCE?*

Begin with a brain-storming exercise. Do the class think they are 'resilient kids'? Do they live in 'resilient homes'? Are their homes flood-proof (from rain, rivers or plumbing problems)? A simple PowerPoint presentation supports this discussion.

#### Main activity:

*Flood-proofing your home*

This activity firstly requires students to remember what they learned during the previous lesson – how small amounts of water can do a lot of damage, especially in carpeted homes on floodplains. In this lesson, an interactive animation allows students to drag and drop household items to a more appropriate and safer place for a home with a known flood risk. They will learn that:

- Carpets and rugs can be moved from downstairs to upstairs, leaving downstairs with stone tiles.
- Photo albums should be picked up and placed on shelves
- The DVD player should be moved to a higher shelf under the TV
- Electric sockets should be moved higher up the walls (waist height)
- Curtains or blinds should be shortened so that they do not hang too low beneath windows.

*What makes a good "flood kit"?*

Now students can brainstorm what would be the most important items to keep in an emergency kit (in case you can't leave your house and have to take shelter upstairs and wait to be rescued, as happened to people in Boscastle in 2004). If extra guidance is needed to get students started, a *Word* document is provided that includes a table with headings like "food and drink items", "medical supplies", "clothing and warmth" and "other." There is also a *PowerPoint* to show afterwards.

#### Plenary:

*What other kinds of risk do other people in other places face?*

It's not just people who have a flood risk that need to keep emergency supplies and emergency kits in their homes. Who else might benefit from this approach to being prepared? Students can brainstorm other types of natural hazard where homes should have emergency kits. They should identify the following and then give a geographical example of each- such as earthquake (e.g. people in Los Angeles). The available PowerPoint can be used to help.