



Are you flood ready?

Lesson 1: "I get knocked down, but I get up again"

Key Ideas:

- The government wants us to learn about and tackle flood risk by building up our personal resilience.
- No matter how well we prepare, nature can always surprise us.

Starter activity:

I get knocked down but I get up again

The opening PowerPoint should help empower young learners to feel that - as future citizens - they are well-prepared to take on any threat of flooding. The first lesson's starter is very important in setting an overall optimistic & empowered tone for the module. The film clip of RGS-IBG president Sir Gordon Conway talking about 'resilience' can also be played.

Main activity:

Be aware, be prepared, take action!

Adapting guidelines issued by the Environment Agency, students are shown that the best way to deal with any sort of danger is to be aware, to prepare, to know how to act when trouble comes (from revising for exams to coping with social pressures!). Living with the threat of flooding is no different. The main exercise is card sorting to identify from the outset that becoming resilient requires us to do three sets of things:

- BE AWARE OF FLOODING (e.g. take an interest in what happens locally when it rains)
- BE PREPARED FOR FLOODING (e.g. keep emergency supplies like canned food, bottled water and a torch; make any easy improvements that could keep water out of your home)
- KNOW WHAT ACTIONS TO TAKE WHEN FLOODING COMES (e.g. be ready to turn off the electricity)

Expect the unexpected

It is important to remember that we can't prepare for everything that comes our way in life. Why might a worse flood come that anyone ever expected? Reasons might include, amongst others:

- Records don't go back far enough to know what to expect in the future
- Incomplete knowledge of how the weather works

"Unexpected events" can then be briefly explained through an account of the 2004 Boscastle floods (case study provided as a *Word* document). Students can complete a timeline to summarise the key features of the event, and further guidelines for discussion are given on the case study. Alternatively, there's now a fictional account of what might happen if the Thames Flood Barrier failed called "Flood!" (link provided on module plan). Extracts can be used to show students what 'extreme events' are and why they're difficult to protect and insure against.

Plenary:

It'll never happen to me...

This brief final exercise gets students thinking about probability - from the odds of being flooded at some point in life to winning the lottery! The case for being insured is overwhelming!