

Floods in Australia (Natural Disasters)

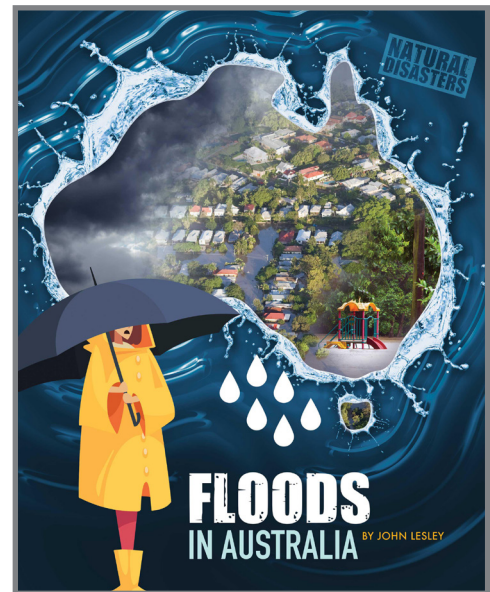
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Floods periodically create devastation across parts of Australia, where they destroy towns, take lives and ruin farming land. The increasing urbanisation of Australia has contributed to flooding that creates misery and hardship.

Floods have always been a part of the Australian landscape, and, despite their destructive power, they also bring water to parched deserts and dry lakes. Over millions of years, plants and wildlife have adapted to the regular floods, and some even depend on them for their continued survival.

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations of actual floods, that have occurred all across Australia, accompany a text that is written to be clear and appealing. As the water level slowly rises across each page, the reader can see how floods affect people, animals and landscapes. The causes of flooding across Australia, and its historical importance for both the natural and the built environments, are revealed in images, graphics and text that is presented in colourful text boxes.

A guide to staying safe in flood emergencies is a useful addition that gives the reader practical tips on what to do when the water starts to rise.

STUDY NOTES

- What is a flood?
- What are the different types of floods?
- How is climate change affecting floods? As a class, discuss some ideas that you can do to help stop the affects of climate change.
- Make your own flood safety poster or social media article using the following steps:
 - Go to pp 12 and 13 of *Floods in Australia*.
 - Read the information about how to stay safe if you are in or near flooding water.
 - Make your own poster based on the information you have read, or write a social media article.
 - Talk about where the poster could be displayed, or what social media would be best for this purpose.
- Have a class discussion about what happens after a flood is over. Some things you can discuss are:
 - The outcomes for households, businesses and schools.
 - The affects on plants and animals in the wild, and compare that with the affect on farmers and their livestock and crops.
 - The mental effect on people.