

## LIFE NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



### Words at work

#### To take by storm

MEANING: to suddenly be very successful in a particular field or with a particular group of people.

eg: Today we're interviewing the 20-year-old fashion designer who has taken the industry by storm.

## PART 3

### BE PREPARED

REGARDLESS of the type of flooding, increase in water levels can have a devastating effect. Lives may be lost, people's health affected, water gets into buildings causing damage, infrastructure can be severely damaged, food and essential items cannot get through to those in flooded areas, things are washed away and people have to leave their homes. It all comes at a huge cost.

It is important to have a good understanding of what causes floods, and how you can prepare and perhaps minimise or prevent flood damage.

- Be aware of the dangers connected to floodwaters.
- Never swim or play in or near flood water.
- Stay tuned to updated warnings and advice.
- Avoid entering flood waters especially when driving a vehicle.
- Have an emergency kit ready.

### TRY THIS

#### The best type of levee

TO TRY to keep flood water from inundating houses and business, people build levees.

What is the best type of levee?

Make a flood model and test various types of levees using different material eg popsicle sticks, clay, sand, stones, cardboard.

Test each levee by pouring water into one side of a plastic tub (representing the flooding) divided by the model levee.

Successful levees will keep the water from flooding to the other side (representing the dry side).

Test the effectiveness of each, and draw conclusions about which type of levee is optimal.

# Stormy weather

Few places in this vast continent of ours are untouched by floods with either localised flooding or widespread inundation being experienced at some time or another.

#### Facts about floods

FLOODING occurs when water covers land that is not usually submerged.

This is caused by prolonged or very heavy rainfall, severe storms, tropical cyclones, monsoonal (wet season) rains in the tropics, snow-melt or dam failure.

A range of situations can cause flooding and the source of the excess water varies.

■ **Coastal flooding** occurs when huge waves caused by a cyclone or severe storm delivers a surge of sea water onto the land. High tides can also cause a rise in water levels.

■ **Waterway flooding** happens when rivers and creeks do not

have the capacity to carry away the extra water caused by constant, heavy rainfall, melting snow or overflowing dams. The water rises in the waterways and overflows onto the normally dry land.

Factors that influence this type of flooding are the intensity and duration of rainfall, the volume and distribution of water, the lay of the land, tidal influences and the weather conditions before the excess amounts of water arise.

#### Water rising

Floods can progress at different speeds which determines the impact it has on the area where it occurs.

**Flash floods** result when large amounts of water fall in a short period of time usually as a consequence of a thunderstorm and often occur rapidly and with little warning.

In cities and towns, drainage systems overflow and roads become flooded. This poses a threat to people and animals that may get swept off roads, caught in stormwater drains or trapped in cars.

This type of flooding may result in property damage, soil erosion and disrupts the normal day running of things.

**Slow onset floods** are floods that take days to build up and may last for long periods of time. They

usually occur in the vast flat inland river areas of Australia.

Even though the floodwaters rise slowly, there is usually some loss of livestock, damage to crops and rural towns may be cut off with roads and rail lines affected.

When floodwaters rise slowly, people have more time to get ready and can move themselves and some of their property to higher ground or even build barriers to keep water out of properties.

**Rapid onset flooding** occurs more quickly and is potentially more damaging as there is generally less time to take preventative measures.

The flow of water is faster and more dangerous.