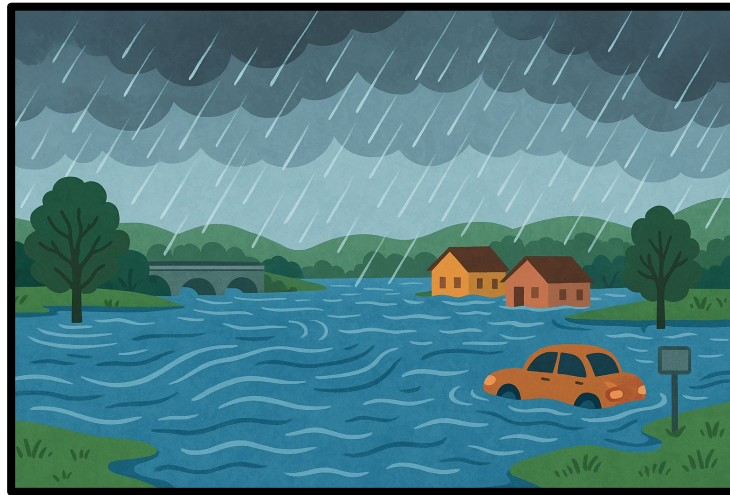


# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## How Floods Happen

Floods are one of the most common natural disasters. A flood happens when water covers land that is usually dry. But what causes it?

One cause of flooding is heavy rain. When it rains too much, the ground can't soak up all the water. As a result, water begins to flow over streets, fields, and sidewalks. If the rain continues, the flood can spread and become more dangerous.

Another cause is melting snow. In spring, snow melts quickly when the temperature rises. If the ground is still frozen, the water has nowhere to go. It runs into rivers and streams, which can **overflow**.

Storms like hurricanes and strong winds can also cause floods. Big waves push water inland, flooding homes and roads near the ocean.

**Floods usually follow a pattern.** First, water builds up. Next, it flows to low areas. Then it rises higher and spreads. Finally, when the rain or storm stops, the water slowly begins to go down.

Floods can damage homes and roads, but they also help in some ways. They carry rich soil to farmlands and refill lakes and rivers. Still, people must prepare and stay safe when a flood is coming.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## How Floods Happen

1. What is one cause of flooding described in the passage?

- A. Melting snow that has nowhere to go
- B. People watering their gardens
- C. The sun shining too brightly
- D. Water freezing into ice

2. How does the author organize the paragraph about flood patterns?

- A. In a sequence of what usually happens during a flood
- B. In a list of favorite weather events
- C. By telling a story about a snowstorm
- D. By comparing different types of snow

3. Fill in the blank:

Floods can happen **because** the ground can't soak up all the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What are two different causes of floods mentioned in the passage?

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5. How does the author help you understand the order of events during a flood?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** N

**Lexile Level:** 530L-680L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational / Earth Science

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## Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read about what causes floods and how they happen. As we read, we'll look for cause-and-effect relationships and notice how the author uses sequence to show the steps in a flood. This helps us better understand how events are connected."

**Vocabulary:** flood, overflow, temperature, soak, pattern

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a flood or watched one on the news?
  2. What kinds of weather do you think might cause flooding?
  3. Why might it be helpful to know the order of events in a flood?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What happens when it rains too much?
  2. How does melting snow lead to flooding?
  3. What steps are listed in the pattern of a flood?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What examples show cause and effect in the passage?
  2. How did the author help you understand the sequence of a flood?
  3. Why is it important to know both the causes and effects of natural events?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a "Flood Flow Map" using arrows to show the sequence: heavy rain → water builds up → ground overflows → flood spreads → water goes down. Under each step, they write one cause-and-effect sentence from the text.

