



09

## Flash Floods



### Lesson Number: 9A – In a Flash

Year Level:  
P/K-3

5Es:  
Explore

Curriculum Links:  
English, Geography



An Australian Government Initiative



AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S  
TELEVISION FOUNDATION

**Lesson Number: 9A****In a Flash****Theme: Flash Floods**

In this story the message is that floods can happen in a flash. Amy and Jimmy have set up the tent near the dry river bed. But Trev, who has just arrived, explains that it is dangerous to set up near the river. Amy and Jimmy can't see the danger and Trev points out the coming rain. If it rains, that rain can lead to floods in a flash, and there may be danger in camping this close to the river. He encourages the others to relocate the tent to higher ground, ensuring that they won't be caught if flash flooding occurs. As a call to action Amy and Jimmy agree and begin to move camp.

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**What students will 'Know and Do':**

Students will know that flash floods can occur quickly and will be able to explain the effects of flash flooding.

1. View the *Li'L Safety Club Natural Disasters* advertisement - **Flash Floods**
2. As a class, discuss what a flash flood is. Refer to **Background information: Rain, Storm and Floods**. List the key points on the board, for example, flash floods happen quickly, flash floods happen when there is too much water in a small waterway, flash floods are unexpected.
3. Refer to **Student Activity Sheet 9A** and discuss the questions and their answers.
4. Ask students to write a news report of the events that happened in the advertisement. Model a news report for the students and discuss the necessary elements, such as reporting the facts of who was there, why and when, what happened, who was responsible and what may be some consequences from the event.

As an example of a news report, you could use the following:

**Campers Lucky Escape**

*On Saturday, there was very heavy rain falling. The river could not hold all the water so a flash flood developed. The water rushed quickly down the river and across the road. It was very dangerous and there were trees and rubbish in the water. Some lucky campers survived because they moved their tent to higher ground. Flooding occurs across Australia, as localised flash floods from sudden downpours created by thunderstorms, or inundation of catchments creating vast floods of hundreds of square kilometres. Simply stated, floods arise from too much water where it is not wanted. Causes of flooding include heavy, intense rainfall that causes water levels in stream channels to rise to the point where they can no longer carry the volume of water; dam failure; and storm surges from tropical cyclones create a region of elevated sea level caused by falling atmospheric pressure and intense winds. Storm surges in Australia can reach up to 5m high.*

**Useful resources:**

- ABC News  
[www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/28/3051091.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/28/3051091.htm)
- News.com.au: Storms bring flash flooding to southeast Queensland  
[www.news.com.au/storms-bring-flash-flooding-to-southeast-queensland/story-e6frfkp9-1225830959904](http://www.news.com.au/storms-bring-flash-flooding-to-southeast-queensland/story-e6frfkp9-1225830959904)
- Google – News reports on flash flooding  
[www.google.com.au/search?q=News+reports+on+flash+flooding&hl=en&sa=G&prmd=ivns&source=univ&tbs=vid:1&tbo=u&ei=SAYITZA-iLy9A9rk6fYB&oi=video\\_result\\_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CCKQqwQwAA](http://www.google.com.au/search?q=News+reports+on+flash+flooding&hl=en&sa=G&prmd=ivns&source=univ&tbs=vid:1&tbo=u&ei=SAYITZA-iLy9A9rk6fYB&oi=video_result_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CCKQqwQwAA)
- SES Western Australia: Community Information – Flood  
[www.ses-wa.asn.au/node/485](http://www.ses-wa.asn.au/node/485)

Student Activity Sheet: 9A	In a Flash	Years P/K-3
Theme: <u>Flash Floods</u>		
Name:		
Class:		

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What is a flash flood?


2. Why couldn't the campers put their tent near the river?


3. Where is the best place to camp when near a creek or river?


4. Write a news report about the event that happened in the advertisement, *Flash Floods*.

**Article**

