

Lesson 2: Floods!



Part one: Quiz

Fill in the gaps to explain the water cycle. Use the word bank.

aquifers

clouds

condenses

evaporation

precipitation

precipitation

runs-off

water vapour

_____ falls from the sky, onto the land and seas. Most of the surface water _____ into bodies of water or underground _____. As the sun warms the earth, some water turns to _____ through the process of _____. As this rises into the colder air, it _____ forming _____. As the clouds travel higher, they can hold less water. They therefore release some of their water as _____.

Part two: climate change and floods



Earlier this year, the UK suffered several floods which came about because of extreme storms.

This video shows some of the effects of Storm Dennis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzkYGKZC4w0>



Why are these extreme weather events becoming more frequent?

- **Climate change** (or **global warming**), is the process of our planet heating up.
- Scientists estimate that since the **Industrial Revolution**, human activity has caused the **Earth** to warm by approximately **1°C**. While that might not sound like much, it is enough to have a significant impact on weather and wildlife across the planet.
- Unfortunately, rising temperatures don't just mean that we'll get nicer weather. The changing climate will actually make our weather more **extreme** and **unpredictable**.

In London, we are protected from flooding by the Thames barrier. The largest flood barrier in the world is the Oosterschelde barrier in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is particularly vulnerable to flooding because it is a very low-lying, flat land. In fact, large parts of the country used to be in the sea. The literal translation of Nether lands is lower lands. You can see more about this barrier here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVdRMRumns>

Part three: how can we help?



It's great that we have the Thames barrier, but many towns and cities in the UK and the world do not have such protection.



We therefore need to think about how we can make floods less likely and if they do happen, how we can limit the damage they cause.

What actions can you think of?

Think about the following questions (and remember your Geography learning):

- Where should we build our houses, our towns and our cities?
- How can we make our gardens and our countryside flood-friendly?

Use these websites to help with your research:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25929644>
- <https://eschooltoday.com/natural-disasters/floods/flood-prevention-methods.html>
- <https://www.researchify.co.uk/>



How can we make floods less likely? <i>How can we tackle climate change?</i>	How can we protect ourselves? <i>How can we limit the damage from floods?</i>

