

# Rainbow Readers

## Title: Extreme Weather: Floods

### Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

meteorologists	concrete	faucet	disasters	shallow
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1. Small children should stay in the shallow part of the swimming pool.
2. To save water, turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
3. The 2004 tsunami was one of the worst natural disasters ever.
4. The weather reporters you see on TV are often meteorologists.
5. I think apartment buildings made of concrete are really ugly.

## Reading Comprehension

### A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Floods happen when the soil can't take in any more rainwater. T / F
2. The two main types of floods are "slow-rising" floods and flash floods. T / F
3. Listening to weather reports is usually not useful during a flood. T / F
4. Cars can drive through a flood if the water is shallow. T / F
5. Animals living near lakes and rivers may be helped by floods. T / F

### B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. It (takes / **doesn't take**) a lot of floodwater to do damage.
2. The 1931 flood was partly due to the ground being (wet / **dry**) for a long time.
3. It is (**always** / sometimes) unsafe to play in floodwater.
4. Be sure to (**wash** / dry) clothes that got wet in a flood.
5. Silt from floods is (**helpful** / harmful) to farmers.

### C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which of the following live in a flood zone?
  - a. People living near lakes
  - b. People living near rivers
  - c. People living in cities
  - d. All of the above
  
2. Cities often flood because they have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. soil
  - b. people
  - c. concrete
  - d. buildings
  
3. Which is NOT true about the 1931 flooding in China?
  - a. Many thousands of people drowned.
  - b. It happened after two years with little rain.
  - c. A lot of people got sick afterwards.
  - d. The water was gone after two months.
  
4. What should you never do in a flash flood?
  - a. Go inside.
  - b. Climb a tree.
  - c. Run through the water.
  - d. Go to the top of a hill.
  
5. How does flooding help fish?
  - a. It makes rivers and lakes bigger.
  - b. It gives them wood for shelter.
  - c. It kills the birds that eat them.
  - d. It brings them food.

## Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

zones	flash floods	germs	levees	hurricanes
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A flood happens when water covers land that is usually dry. Areas near rivers and lakes are higher-risk zones. Floods are usually caused by hurricanes or other weather events that bring a lot of rain. In “slow-rising” floods, water levels rise over a period of days. Flash floods happen quickly, often in cities. The worst flood ever happened in China in 1931. It rained heavily. The ground couldn't take in the water because it had been dry for a long time, and many people died. If you live close to water, be prepared. During a bad storm, take shelter and go to higher ground or a higher floor. Floodwater is dirty and spreads germs, so never play in it. Although floods are scary, some are helpful. For example, they cover land with silt, which makes it better for farming. People will always need to live near water, so scientists are trying to make stronger levees and to predict storms better. This knowledge will make us safer in the future.