

Pre-Intermediate 3
Unit 2 Reading
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Floods

An unusual amount of rain or the quick melting of snow on the mountains, in a warm spring, may cause floods. The rivers overflow their banks, and the flood waters and liquid mud cause tremendous damage. In some countries like Egypt, floods come down the rivers regularly every year. In such places, people know how to control them by building high, strong banks or by cutting more channels for the water to flow along.

flood = large amounts of water destroying houses and farms

amount = quantity

He has saved a large amount of money in his bank account.

melt = turn into a liquid

In the middle of the spring, most of the snow in the mountains of Tehran melts.

cause = lead to, result in

Carelessness causes accidents.

The high rate of inflation has caused widespread anger in the country.

overflow = spill over

Because of heavy rain, the river may overflow its banks.

bank = the shore of a river

mud (n.) = the mixture of water and soil

muddy (adj.) = covered with mud

They changed their muddy boots.

tremendous damage = a lot of damage

Egypt = a country in northeast Africa

The Nile River is the most important source of water in Egypt.

regular (adj.) = following a pattern, especially with the same time or space in between each thing and the next

regular = well-ordered, structured

regular \neq irregular

regularly (adv.) = at expected times

flow = run

along ≠ across

along = from one end to the other end of something

They walked slowly along the road.

In other countries where floods come unexpectedly, as in India and China, there is often widespread destruction and dreadful loss of life. With no high ground for the people to escape to, and the water rising above the roofs of their houses, or washing their houses away, the unfortunate people cling to what they can. But the floods bear away even the strongest swimmers.

as = like, for example

widespread = extensive ≠ limited

destroy (verb) = ruin, demolish

*Floods **destroy** many things.*

destruction (noun) = getting destroyed

*Floods cause a lot of **destruction**.*

destructive (adjective) = causing destruction

*Floods are very **destructive**.*

dreadful = terrible

loss of life = death

There is often widespread destruction and dreadful loss of life. = Many things often get destroyed and many people get killed. = Floods often destroy many things and kill many people.

escape = run away, run off

rise = go up

cling to = hold

bear away = carry away

Floods caused by the sea are also fearful. Sometimes the tides driven by the winds are much higher than usual, and the salt water may come far up on the land, making it impossible for crops to grow; or owing to an earthquake under the sea, a great tidal wave may ruin everything in its path.

fearful = scary, frightening

tide = the rise and the drop of the water at sea because of the moon

high tide = the rise of water

low tide = the drop of water

crops = the products which farmers grow; agricultural products

owing to = because of

ruin = destroy

in its path = on its way

tsunami = a flood caused by an earthquake under the sea

Sudden floods, however, have also saved a country. Once when war broke out and an enemy was advancing to conquer a country, some bold patriots decided to break down the great walls of earth and stone which in low countries keep out the sea. Such an action might have caused the death of many of their fellow countrymen, but it thoroughly destroyed the enemy.

break out = start suddenly

War broke out in 1914.

Fighting has broken out all over the city.

advance = move forward

conquer = capture, occupy

bold = brave, courageous

patriot = a person who loves his/her country

such an action = an action like this

fellow countryman = compatriot = a person who is from the same country as ours

fellow citizen = a person who is from the same city as ours

thoroughly = completely

Among what are called the forces of nature — heavy rain or snow, lightning, high winds, tidal waves, earthquakes, etc. — floods probably cause the greatest loss of life. As time goes on, man is learning to be more prepared for these events, specially by finding out when and where they are likely to happen. Although man is gradually conquering nature, we have a lot to do before we can bring floods under control.

Among vs. Between

Between → in the middle of two things or two people

Among → in the middle of many things or many people

etc. = and so on, and so forth

as = when, while

go on = continue

as time goes on = over time

man = human

event = happening, incident

likely = probable

gradually = little by little

bring something under control = control something

Main Ideas

Causes of Floods:

- Heavy Rain
- The Quick Melting of Snow on the Mountains in a warm spring

Types of Floods:

- Regular and Expected Floods → Controllable
Example: Floods in Egypt
Egyptians control floods by
 - building high, strong banks
 - cutting more channels
- Unexpected Floods → Uncontrollable and Destructive
Example: Floods in India and China

Floods Caused by the Sea:

- Tidal Waves Driven by the Winds
- Tsunamis because of earthquakes under the water

Floods as Weapons of War:

- Man-made floods can prevent an enemy from advancing

Floods are the most destructive force of nature.

Full Text:

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Among what are called the forces of nature — heavy rain or snow, lightning, high winds, tidal waves, earthquakes, etc. — floods probably cause the greatest loss of life. As time goes on, man is learning to be more prepared for these events, specially by finding out when and where they are likely to happen. Although man is gradually conquering nature, we have a lot to do before we can bring floods under control.

Sample Summary:

Floods can occur due to excessive rainfall or rapid snowmelt and can cause significant damage. Countries like Egypt experience regular floods and have developed methods to manage them, such as building strong banks or creating additional channels for water. However, in places like India and China, unexpected floods lead to widespread destruction and loss of life, with people often having nowhere to escape. Sea floods, driven by high tides or earthquakes, can also be devastating, destroying crops and landscapes.

Interestingly, floods have also played a role in saving a nation during war by breaking barriers and stopping the enemy, despite the risk to locals. Overall, floods are one of the deadliest natural forces, and while humans are learning to predict and prepare for them, much work remains to effectively control and mitigate their impact.

Sample Summary:

Floods happen when it rains a lot or snow melts quickly. They can break things and hurt people. Some places, like Egypt, get floods every year, but they know how to deal with them by making strong walls or extra paths for the water. In other places, like India and China, floods can surprise people and cause a lot of damage and people can die because there's no safe place to go. Floods from the sea are scary too. They can come in and stop plants from growing or destroy things if there's an earthquake.

Sometimes, floods have helped people by stopping enemies in a war. But usually, floods are very dangerous and can kill many people. People are trying to learn more about floods so they can be ready and stop them from causing so much trouble. We're getting better at this, but we still have a lot to learn to control floods.

Source:

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