

NATURAL DISASTERS

Performance Standard 17D.G

Write a one-page essay describing the effects of river flooding on people and property, and explain at least three ways that humans have attempted to adapt to the flooding of rivers in modern times accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: identify ways people have attempted to adapt to the flooding of rivers;
- *Reasoning*: explain the effects of flooding on people and property; and
- *Communication*: write a summary that is well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. *In order to understand the historical significance of geography (17D)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
 - Describe instances of how places can be changed or destroyed as a result of natural processes.
 - Describe how humans have adapted to environmental changes caused by natural processes.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Allow students to surf the web to learn about natural disasters. For example, using an appropriate search engine (such as google.com), students can look under "weather related natural disasters" to learn about the effects of previous natural disasters related to weather. Or students can search earthquakes, volcanoes, etc. to learn how these natural disasters have affected people and places in the past. If surfing the web is not an option for your students, then appropriate reading materials should be made available for students to study. A general class discussion should follow student research on the web or after completion of the readings provided.
4. Have students write a one page essay, describing how people and property have been affected by flooding along rivers in the past.
5. Have students write a second paragraph listing and explaining at least three ways that people have attempted to adapt to flooding along rivers in the past.
6. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: the identification of the ways people have attempted to adapt to flooding along rivers is complete and accurate.
 - *Reasoning*: the effects of flooding on people and property are logical and well-reasoned.
 - *Communication*: the writing is well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work follow

Resources

- Writing pad
- Pen or pencil
- Social Science Rubric

Time Requirements

- One class period

Natural Disasters

Floods have been occurring before humans stepped foot on earth. Many effects can happen when these floods occur. People die from these tragic floods. Homes can be destroyed and damaged. Economic losses occur such as the loss of wages and production. Farmland can be submerged by flood waters.

From these disasters, people have learned how to adapt. Through time and effort people have constructed levees and flood walls. Wetlands have been manipulated into act as storage reservoirs to serve for floods. Not all floods are bad, because life some life can only be created from these natural disasters. Through attempts and defeats, people have learned how to adapt and control these disasters.

When a river floods it can destroy property. Crops are ruined, cars are turned over and power goes out. People and animals die and houses are destroyed. Bridges are knocked down and people can't drive for days until roads have been fixed. People can't go to work if their car or office is destroyed. Food supplies may go down because the flood destroyed the crops.

People adapt to flooding rivers by living in higher areas so the water doesn't reach them. People can build walls around the river called levees. People also set up dikes to block the water flow. People also build dams to control the water movement. If the flood hits people can stock up on food to eat and can practice evacuation drills to get away.