Year 5 Floods, Storms and Bushfires

Lesson 2

Introduction	Floods, Storms and Bushfires – A Cross-Curricular Unit of Work
	In the previous lesson, we introduced the topic, and advised students that this
	term, we will be investigating floods, storms and bushfires.
	In this lesson, we will be looking at how we can protect areas or significant
	places from floods, storms and bushfires, and what help is available, if we are
	affected by one of these disasters.
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	WALT – identify actions which help prevent being caught in a flood, storm or
	bushfire, and who are the organisations/people to assist you in an emergency.
	WILF – researching skills, working within a group, sharing viewpoints,
	contributing to class discussions and writing a persuasive letter.
	TIB- Emergency contacts are available to offer people assistance.
Warm	1. Briefly discuss the previous lesson, and why floods, storms and bushfires
up/Main	occur.
lesson	2. Hand out Worksheet 3: What Would You Do? to students, and discuss as a
(10 mins)	class what each image shows.
	3. Beside each image, ask students to write how they could help to protect
	these places from a future flood, storm or bushfire (build levies, don't build
	houses near flood prone areas, build houses that can withstand high winds,
	clear large trees and shrubs from yards).
	4. Direct students to compare and contrast the ways they protect places from
	storms and floods versus bushfires.
	5. Choose students to share answers.
	6. Glue sheets into books.
Main lesson	1. Hand out A3 or poster paper to table groups.
(40 mins)	2. Now, ask each group to brainstorm and write down what help is available to
	people in the event of a flood, storm or bushfire. (firefighters, police, SES)
	3. Choose table groups to share their answers.
	4. Next, ask students to write down on the same sheet, what they think each
	of these services do in the event of a disaster.
	For example:
	Firefighters put out fires of all descriptions, save people from emergency situations.
	Police direct traffic, save people from emergency situations, maintain the
	law.
	5. Ask each table to share their answers.
	6. Ask students who they would contact in the event of a flood.
	7. Discuss answers, and write these on the board so that students can add
	these to the A3 sheets of paper.
	8. Advise students that local councils provide contact names and numbers for
	the public.
	9. Hand out Worksheet 4: Emergency Contacts to student to glue into books.
	10. Pose the following question: 'Are all people who assist in emergencies paid?'
	11. Discuss answers, and ask students to research who might be volunteers,
	(Rural Fire Authorities, SES, St John Ambulance) and give reasons why they





	think people might want to volunteer. (e.g. contribute to the community,
	help others)
	12. Discuss findings.
	13. Tell students they are to choose one of these volunteer groups and write an
	application letter applying to be a volunteer. Provide the
	Worksheet: Persuasive Letter Writing Starters for students to access for
	support.
	14. Students should research and list what is required to be a rural
	firefighter or another type of volunteer (confidence, reliability, wanting to
	contribute to the community, relevant experience), to assist them with their
Davie	application.
Review	Choose students to share their work.
(10 mins)	Collect work and correct.
Differentiation	Take anecdotal records on student participation and knowledge.
Differentiation	Work with a partner. Teacher assistance.
	Write a list of the local volunteer groups in your area.
Resources	Worksheet 3: What Would You Do?
Resources	Worksheet 4: Emergency Contacts
	Worksheet: Sentence Starters: Persuasive Letter Writing Starters
	Computers, laptops, iPads.
	Student books.
	A3 sheets or poster paper.
	Images of natural disasters
	Books on natural disasters in Australia.
	http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/community-support/disasters-and-
	emergencies/preparing-for-an-emergency/emergency-contacts
ACARA	Humanities and Social Sciences
Content	The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how
Descriptions	people can respond (ACHASSK114)
	Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary and secondary
	sources (ACHASSI095, ACHASSI123)
	Evaluate evidence to draw conclusions (ACHASSI101, ACHASSI129)
	Work in groups to generate responses to issues and challenges (ACHASSI102,
	ACHASSI130)
	How people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve a civic goal
	(ACHASSK118)
	Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and
	multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound
	appropriate to purpose and audience (ACELY1704)
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