

Mexico's Floods: Causes, Effects, and Resilience

In this lesson, students will understand the causes and effects of flooding, especially in the context of the recent flooding in Mexico, and will explore the role of community support in disaster recovery.

Grades: 5-6		Subject(s): ELA/Science
Focus Standard(s)	RI.5.3 / RI.6.3: Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text. SL.5.1 / SL.6.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. MS-ESS3-2: Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.	
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to identify the cause of recent flooding in Mexico and analyze its effects.	
Materials/Resources	Help Comes After Mexico Floods Reader's notebook, journal, lined-paper, or attached student worksheet	
Vocabulary	magnitude: size; importance restored: brought back residents: people living in an area hygiene: care and safety of the body evacuate: leave to stay safe	
Anticipatory Set	Engagement Activity: Begin with a short video (found within the article) showing the impact of floods in various regions, including Mexico. Think-Pair-Share: Ask students, "What emotions do you feel when you see people affected by natural disasters? Have you ever experienced a natural disaster? How did it affect you or your community?"	
Mini-Lesson	Introduction to the Lesson: Read the headline "Help Comes After Mexico Floods" and the subheadline "Workers assist people after strong rains cause damage." Explain to students that today they will be identifying the cause of recent flooding in Mexico and the effects of the flooding. Think Aloud (Modeling): Read the first paragraph aloud, pausing to highlight the cause (or reason) for the flooding in Mexico. Example: "Heavy rain has caused major flooding in Mexico. The flooding began after two storms whirled through the Pacific Ocean off Mexico's coast, bringing strong rains starting October 6. Those twin storms led to overflowing rivers and landslides." Explain to students that you highlighted keywords related to the headline or subheadline—words that were repeated and explained why the flooding occurred.	

Guided Practice	In small groups, students will finish reading the article together and identify: • 4 causes and effects of the flooding in Mexico • 2 organizations that are helping with disaster relief • 1 way organizations help those affected by the disaster
Closure/Assessment	Exit Ticket: Each student writes one action they can take to support disaster relief efforts in their community (e.g., volunteering, fundraising).
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of article

Name: _____

Date: _____

Article: Help Comes After Mexico Floods

Cause and Effect Chart

Part 1: Cause and Effect Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you read the article, record the causes (why something happened) and the effects (what happened as a result).

Cause (Why it happened)	Effect (What happened)

Part 2: Short Assessment

Directions: Answer the questions using information from the text.

1. Which two organizations are helping the people of Mexico after the flooding?
2. How did one organization help people affected by the disaster?
3. Why is it important for communities to prepare for natural disasters?

Name: Answer Key

Date:

Article: Help Comes After Mexico Floods

Cause and Effect Chart

Part 1: Cause and Effect Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you read the article, record the causes (why something happened) and the effects (what happened as a result).

Cause (Why it happened)	Effect (What happened)
Heavy rain	Major flooding in Mexico
Two storms	Rivers overflowed and landslides occurred
Flooding and landslides	People died & homes were damaged
Flooding and landslides	Bridges and roads were destroyed & electricity went out across five states

Part 2: Short Assessment

Directions: Answer the questions using information from the text.

1. Which two organizations are helping the people of Mexico after the flooding?

Amazon and the Mexican Red Cross

2. How did one organization help people affected by the disaster?

Amazon is delivering hygiene kits and flood protection tools to people impacted by the floods.

3. Why is it important for communities to prepare for natural disasters?

Communities need to prepare for natural disasters, so that people can stay safe, protect their homes, and get the supplies and help they need more quickly.