

Table of Contents

Diagnostic Pre-Test 5

Lesson 1: Floods

You Be the Hydrologist	11
A Terrible Flood	12
The Causes and Effects of Floods	13
Floods Vocabulary	14
Floods and the Water Cycle	15
Floods Journal	16
Floods Assessment	17

Lesson 2: Tornadoes

Creating a Tornado	19
Understanding Tornadoes	20
Tornado Formation	21
Tornadoes Vocabulary	22
Types of Tornadoes	23
Tornadoes Journal	24
Tornadoes Assessment	25

Lesson 3: Earthquakes

Earthquake Experiment	27
Why Earthquakes Happen	28
Earthquakes Venn Diagram	29
Earthquakes Vocabulary	30
Earth's Plates and Earthquakes	31
Earthquakes Journal	32
Earthquakes Assessment	33

Lesson 4: Hurricanes

Hurricane Effects	35
Understanding Hurricanes	36
How Hurricanes Form	37
Hurricanes Vocabulary	38
The Path of Hurricane Katrina	39
Hurricanes Journal	40
Hurricanes Assessment	41

Lesson 5: Volcanoes

Building a Volcano	43
What is a Volcano?	44
Types of Volcanoes	45
Volcanoes Vocabulary	46
Volcanoes Around the World	47
Volcanoes Journal	48
Volcanoes Assessment	49

Lesson 6: Snowstorms

Temperature and Precipitation	51
Understanding Snowstorms	52
How Blizzards Form	53
Snowstorms Vocabulary	54
Snowfall in Canada	55
Snowstorms Journal	56
Snowstorms Assessment	57

Lesson 7: Wildfires

Heat Conduction	59
A Fire at Yellowstone National Park . .	60
Causes and Effects of Wildfires	61
Wildfires Vocabulary	62
Fire Triangles	63
Wildfires Journal	64
Wildfires Assessment	65

Lesson 8: Landslides

You Be the Geologist	67
All About Landslides	68
Understanding Landslides Web	69
Landslides Vocabulary	70
People and Landslides	71
Landslides Journal	72
Landslides Assessment	73

Table of Contents

Lesson 9: Tsunamis

Create a Mini-Tsunami	75
Understanding Tsunamis	76
Tsunami Waves vs. Wind Waves	77
Tsunamis Vocabulary	78
Tsunami Safety	79
Tsunamis Journal	80
Tsunamis Assessment	81

Lesson 10: Physical Weathering

Exploring Physical Weathering	83
All About Physical Weathering	84
Physical Weathering Map	85
Physical Weathering Vocabulary	86
Exploring Physical Weathering	87
Physical Weathering Journal	88
Physical Weathering Assessment	89

Lesson 11: Chemical Weathering

Exploring Chemical Weathering	91
Chemical Weathering: How Do Caves Form?	92
Chemical Weathering Web	93
Chemical Weathering Vocabulary	94
Mammoth Cave	95
Chemical Weathering Journal	96
Chemical Weathering Assessment	97

Lesson 12: What Is Erosion?

Studying Erosion	99
All About Erosion	100
Erosion Web	101
Erosion Vocabulary	102
How Erosion Shapes Our Earth	103
Erosion Journal	104
Erosion Assessment	105

Lesson 13: Wind Erosion

Controlling Wind Erosion	107
Wind Erosion and the Dust Bowl	108
Wind Erosion Cause and Effects	109
Wind Erosion Vocabulary	110
Valley of Fire National Park	111
Wind Erosion Journal	112
Wind Erosion Assessment	113

Lesson 14: Water Erosion

Contour Farming Experiment	115
Water Erosion Is All Around Us	116
Types of Water Erosion	117
Water Erosion Vocabulary	118
Pancake Rocks	119
Water Erosion Journal	120
Water Erosion Assessment	121

Lesson 15: Glacial Erosion

Investigating Glacier Movement	123
What Is Glacial Erosion?	124
Glacial Erosion Web	125
Glacial Erosion Vocabulary	126
What is Glacial Erosion?	127
Glacial Erosion Journal	128
Glacial Erosion Assessment	129

Lesson 16: Root Growth

Finding Strong Roots	131
All About Roots	132
Comparing Root Systems	133
Root Growth Vocabulary	134
Roots, Roots, Roots	135
Root Growth Journal	136
Root Growth Assessment	137

Culminating Activity: World Summit

Scientist Planning Sheet	139
Project Ideas	141
Project Assessment	143
Performance Assessment	144

Name _____

Floods

You Be the Hydrologist

Directions: Choose one of the Questions for Investigation below. Use the question you chose to formulate a hypothesis. Then design an experiment to test your hypothesis. Make observations and draw a conclusion. Create a record of your experiment on a separate sheet of paper.

Questions for Investigation

- Will water infiltrate sand or silt faster?
Hint: As you test soil samples, be sure to measure the exact same amount of soil into the funnel and pour in the exact same amount of water.
- Will water infiltrate saturated or dry soil faster?
Hint: Test a moist sample of soil (sand or silt). Then, test a dry sample of the exact same amount of soil.



Question

Select one of the Questions for Investigation. Write the question you chose.



Hypothesis

Formulate your hypothesis. (What is the answer to your question?) Write your hypothesis.



Experimental Design

Design and conduct your experiment. Write down the steps to your experiment.



Observation

What happened during your experiment? Record your observations.



Conclusion

What is the answer to your question? Write your conclusion. Do your findings support your hypothesis? What did you learn from this experiment?

Floods

A Terrible Flood

At about 3:00 P.M. on May 31, 1889, the South Fork Dam suddenly gave way. More than 18 billion kilograms (20 million tons) of water rushed down the narrow valley to the town of Johnstown, 22 kilometers (14 miles) below.

The massive wall of water was like a huge tidal wave. It reached speeds of 64 kilometers (40 miles) per hour. It picked up houses. It also picked up trees and trains. It tossed them aside. It had the force of Niagara Falls.

By the time it reached the town, the flood did not even look like water anymore. People who saw it coming said it looked like a black mountain of junk.

In minutes, most of the town was destroyed. That included about 1,600 homes. More than 2,200 people had also been killed.

What caused this natural disaster? As with most floods, there are many answers.

First, it had been raining heavily for two days. Two rivers in the area had already overflowed their banks. Much of the town was already under half to two meters (two to seven feet) of water. In addition, much of the ground above the town had become heavily soaked. It could not absorb any more water. That created a dangerous runoff.

Secondly, Johnstown had been built on a floodplain. The floodplain was at the bottom of a long narrow valley. Narrow, deep valleys do not allow water to spread out.

A third reason for the terrible disaster was that there was very little warning. People did not have time to escape. No one knew what to do.

Fourth, over the years, there had been a lot of new development above the town. Trees and other plants had been removed from the hillside. Trees soak up a lot of rain. Their roots help keep the soil from eroding.

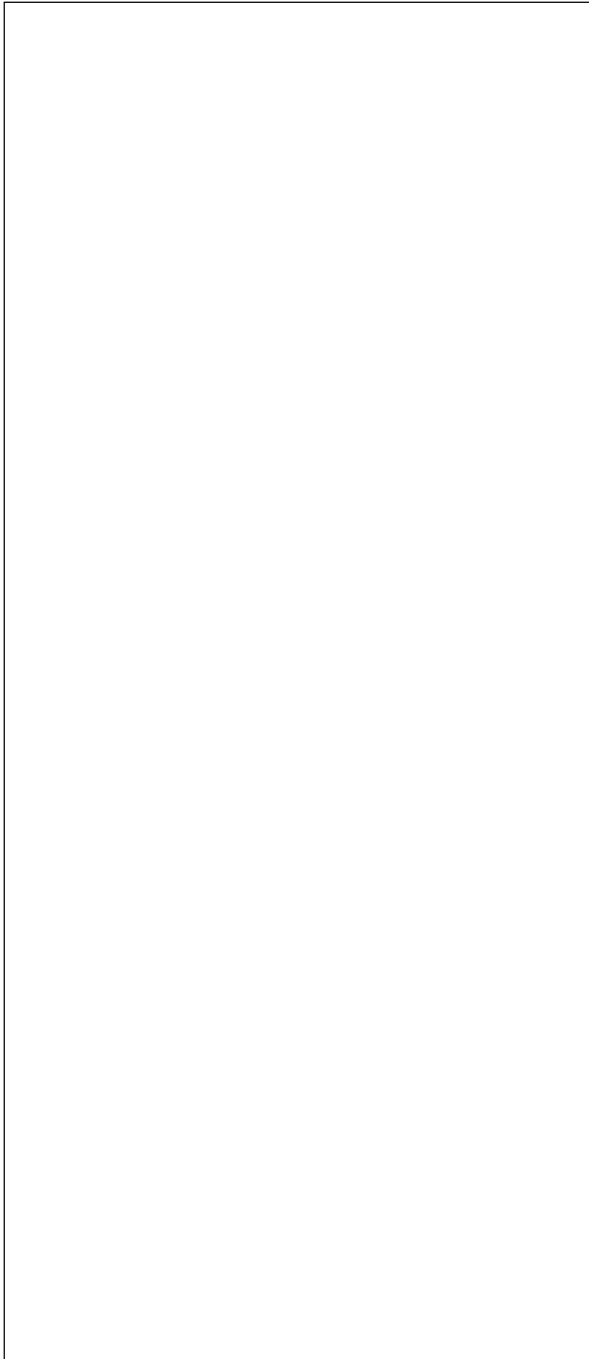
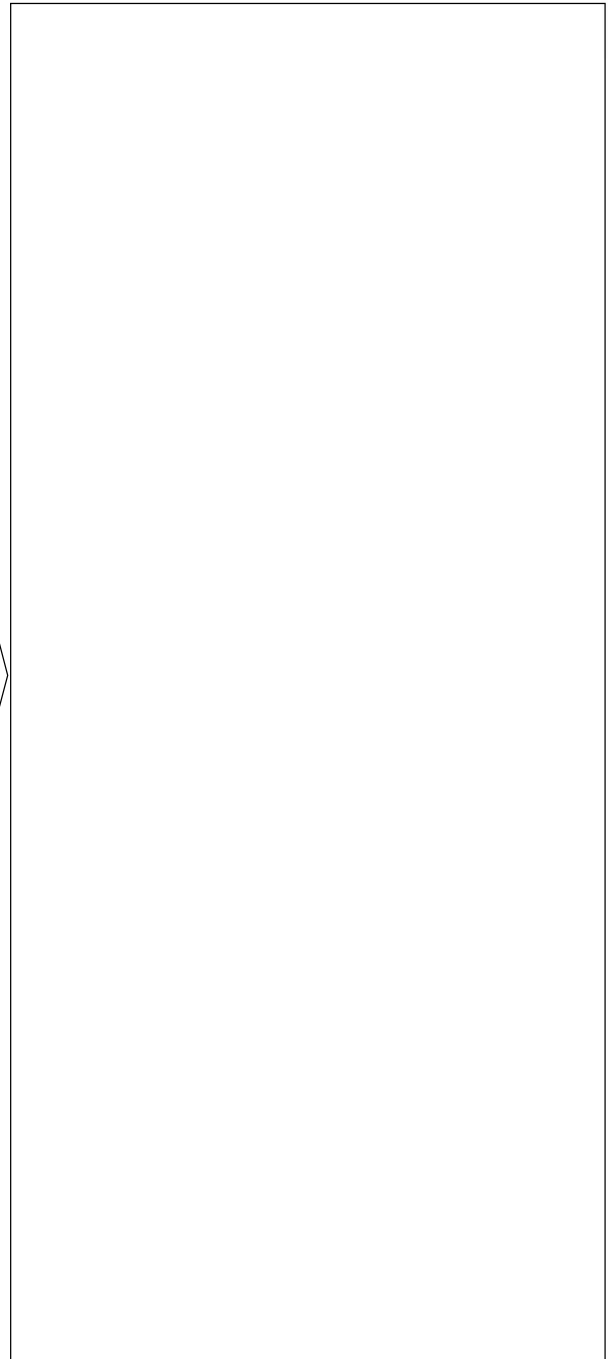
Finally, the dam failed. It had first been built over 30 years earlier. But there had been problems with the dam before. It had not been properly taken care of and repaired. All those facts combined into one terrible flood. It was one of the worst floods the world had ever known.

Name _____

Floods

The Causes and Effects of Floods

Directions: Think about the information you read on the previous page. The causes and effects of the Johnstown flood can be similar to other floods. Write the causes and effects of the Johnstown flood in the graphic organizer below.

Causes**Effects**

Floods

Floods Vocabulary

Word Box			
levee	watershed	floodplain	flood level

Directions: Write the vocabulary word or phrase next to its definition. Choose words from the word box above.

Definition	Vocabulary Word
1. The amount of water a river can hold before flooding.	
2. An area of land that water flows across as it moves towards a stream, river, or lake.	
3. A natural or artificial embankment or slope designed to prevent the flooding of the land behind it.	
4. Flat area, usually on either side of a river, which has the potential to easily flood.	

Directions: Illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided below.

flood level	floodplain	levee	watershed