



## What's going on this week?

Following the trail of devastation left by Hurricane Ida across parts of North America, US President Biden has blamed climate change for what's happened and believes the country needs to be better prepared for extreme weather. Hurricane Ida tore across more than 1,500 miles of the USA and was one of the most well-forecast storms in recent memory, causing catastrophic flooding and destroying buildings in its wake.

### Main question:

#### How does facing disasters change us?

##### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. Does anyone know where it might have been taken? Explain that the picture is of a house in New Jersey, USA, that has been seriously damaged by floods and high winds caused by Hurricane Ida. Look at the people on the poster, how do you think they might be feeling?
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf), discuss the different responses and reactions of the people affected by the disaster.
- Look at the information found on the assembly resource. How do you think you would feel and respond if you had to face a natural disaster? Discuss how we all respond differently in difficult times. Share what you already know about natural disasters, can you think of examples? Have you ever had any experiences of any? Talk about what you think you would find most difficult about experiencing one.
- The US President, Joe Biden, has blamed climate change for the increases in extreme weather and believes that America should be better prepared and by doing things such as installing electrical lines underground and creating flood-proof power stations, the affects won't be as bad. Do you think it's important that the government should take action in this way? Can you think of things that individual people could also do to help?

### Reflection

Over the course of our lives, there will be many things that happen to us outside of our control. One thing we do have control over is our response; we can control our actions and what happens next.



## KS1 Focus

### Question:

#### What is a hurricane?

##### Listen, think, share

- Make a list of the different types of weather we have experienced e.g. sun, rain, snow, cloud, thunder and lightning, wind. Do you have a favourite type of weather? Why?
- Explain that sometimes we may experience extreme weather that can cause harm, such as flooding, lightning, high winds or snow and ice. In some parts of the world, people may experience different types of extreme weather, such as a hurricane. What do you think a hurricane is?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about hurricanes. Do you know anything else about hurricanes? What else would you like to find out? Create a list of questions on the board.
- Hurricanes only happen in the Caribbean and North America region. Look at a world map and locate where this is. Can you find the UK? Explain that sea temperatures around the UK are too low for hurricanes to form.
- Hurricanes are powerful, spinning storms. Their high winds can cause damage to roads, houses and trees and their rainfall can cause flooding. Have you ever experienced wind or rain causing damage? Have you ever seen fallen branches after a windy day?

### Reflection

Hurricanes are powerful, spinning storms. If they hit land, their heavy wind and rainfall can cause a great deal of damage.



## KS2 Focus

### Question:

#### How do natural disasters differ from human-made disasters?

##### Listen, think, share

- Think about the word disaster. What do you think a disaster is? Explain that a disaster is an event that causes a huge amount of damage and harm.
- Write 'natural disasters' and 'human-made disasters' on the board. What is the difference between the two?
- Explain that natural disasters are caused by nature or natural processes of the earth and human-made disasters are partly or fully caused by humans, either intentionally or through error or negligence. Can you think of any examples of natural and human-made disasters?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some examples of different disasters. Which are natural and which are human-made? Are there any that could be both?
- Focus on some of the disasters that could be both natural and human-made e.g. fire. Explain that sometimes fire, such as a wildfire, can be a natural disaster whereas a house fire could be caused by humans.
- Discuss how different parts of the world may be affected by certain disasters more than others. Do you think it is possible to prepare for a natural or human-made disaster and reduce the harm or damage it may cause?

### Reflection

Disasters are events that can cause huge amounts of damage and harm. We have more control over the disasters caused by humans than those caused naturally.



## KS2 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Find out more about natural disasters. Use the following to help children to plan and structure their work:

- Which natural disaster do you want to find out more about?
- What causes it?
- What are the effects it has?
- Where in the world do they happen?
- Can you discover any statistics such as speed, height?
- Is there any other interesting information you could add?

Ask the children to present their findings, either orally or as a factfile or non-chronological report.

**Option 2:** Explain that a meteorologist is a weather scientist! They use equipment to study and analyse weather and can use it to make predictions and help people prepare for extreme weather conditions. Ask the children to create a weather station and become a meteorologist for the week! Begin by deciding what data they will collect:

- Temperature – position a thermometer and read the temperature at the same time each day.
- Rainfall – make a rain gauge using a plastic bottle or use a measuring cylinder.
- Wind – create an anemometer using paper cups.
- Atmospheric pressure – create a homemade barometer.

Use the link below for ideas:

[www.camp.com/articles/weather-experiments-for-kids](http://www.camp.com/articles/weather-experiments-for-kids)



## KS1 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Ask the children to describe the weather today. If possible, you might even nip outside. Think about:

- What is the sky like?
- Does it feel warm or cold?
- Is it light or dark?

Think about the different types of weather they have experienced e.g. snow, wind, rain, ice, sun, fog, thunder and lightning.

- Which is your favourite type of weather? Why?
- Which is your least favourite? Why?
- What might you wear if you were going outside in the snow? What about the rain or the sun?

Write the four seasons on the board. Discuss which season certain types of weather might occur more often. Split a piece of paper into four and draw a picture showing the weather we might find in each season.

**Option 2:** Create a hurricane in a bottle to model what it looks like. You will need:

- 2 x 2 litre plastic drinks bottles
- Duct or electrical tape
- Food colouring

Pierce a small hole in one of the bottle lids or use a sports bottle cap. Tape it upside down to the top of an empty 2 litre plastic bottle. Fill the other bottle with water and add a drop of food colouring. Connect this bottle to the empty one then turn and put it on top. Gently swirl the bottle and watch your hurricane appear. This website may help: [www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/how-to-make-a-tornado-in-a-bottle-experiment](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/how-to-make-a-tornado-in-a-bottle-experiment)



## This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58424635](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58424635)

## This Week's Useful Videos

Storm Ida Aftermath

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-58432047](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-58432047)

## This Week's Virtual Assembly

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

## This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Catastrophic** – something causing great damage or suffering.

...causing **catastrophic** flooding.

**Damaged** – physically harmed.

The picture is of a house in New Jersey, USA, that has been seriously **damaged** by floods and high winds.

**Devastation** – great destruction or damage.

...the trail of **devastation** left by Hurricane Ida.

**Disaster** – an event that causes a huge amount of damage and harm.

Discuss the different responses and reactions of the people affected by the **disaster**.

**Extreme** – very severe or bad.

The country needs to be better prepared for **extreme** weather.

**Installing** – placing something such as machinery or equipment in a position ready to be used.

By doing things such as **installing** electrical lines underground and creating flood-proof power stations, the affects won't be as bad.