Natural Disasters

Lesson Title: Flooding in the Colorado Springs Region
Grade Level(s): Fourth and Fifth Grade
Duration: 2 – 40 Minute Lessons
Description: Classroom Lesson using Museum Interface
Theme(s): Causes of Flash Floods

CSAS Standards:

Fourth Grade: Geography 1. Use several types of geographic tools to answer questions about the geography of Colorado.
2. Connections within and across human and physical systems are developed.

Fifth Grade: Geography 1. Use various geographic tools and sources to answer questions about the geography of the United States.

National Standards:

National Geography Standards: 1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information. 4. The physical and human characteristics of places. 14. How human actions modify the physical environment. 15. How physical systems affect human systems. 17. How to apply geography to interpret the past. 18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Historical Connections: Studying flood patterns in the Colorado region through time
GUIDING QUESTIONS:

Click on Button H for Historical Maps.

1. Locate Waldo Canyon, Fountain Creek and Camp Creek on the Colorado Springs map.

2. Based on the creek flow, what cities and towns could be affected by a flash flood?

3. Can you think of some precautions residents can take to avoid a flash flood?
GUIDING QUESTIONS:

Click through Newspaper Icon to “Flash Floods Pose New Threat After Fire Moves Through Area” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, July 5, 2012. Read the article and then answer the following questions:

1. List THREE risk factors for flash flooding after the fire.
2. Locate the TWO creeks listed that threatened to flood.
3. List at least TWO of the organizations that were considered to have expert information about potential flash flooding.
4. List at least FOUR prevention methods you can find to help control flooding.

Now, look at all the PHOTOGRAPHS.
1. Click on the AUDIO samples and Listen to BOTH recordings.
2. What do you think caused the flooding and massive damage to structures?
3. Listen to the FIRST audio again and explain what caused the flood based on the first person’s account. Be sure to listen to what the observer heard.
4. List the types of structures that were lost or damaged.
5. How did one woman survive the rushing waters?
6. Study the city map on letter H and find the areas described through the photographs and audio recordings that were affected by the flood. Look for Uintah, Bijou. Colorado Ave and Fountain Creek.

Assessment Question

Based on your understanding of floods, what advice could you give to someone if they heard the National Weather Service announce a “FLASH FLOOD” in your area?

Response

Students may create a PSA or flyer to explain safety procedures for a FLASH FLOOD WARNING.