

Floods

Water is essential for our survival, and about 70 per cent of the Earth's surface is covered in it, but water can also have a devastating effect. Several days of heavy rain (or melting snow) can cause rivers to burst their banks and flood surrounding areas. If the ground is already saturated with water, there is nowhere for the rain to go. The floodwater can wreck buildings, farmland and infrastructure, and can cause landslides or mudslides. If the water is flowing fast enough it can even wash people, vehicles and farm animals away.



Some floods develop slowly after a long period of rainfall. Others happen very quickly. Sometimes, a 'flash flood' occurs when there is intense rain for several hours and flooding happens with very little warning. This can be very dangerous when people are unprepared for the effects of the floodwater.

Many parts of the world, particularly Asia, experience a 'monsoon season' when strong winds change direction (from a cold area to a hot area), bringing heavy rain. Many farmers rely on the monsoon to water their land, but the rains can bring a risk of flooding, too. In other parts of the world, annual floods carry silt that helps to make the soil rich and fertile for farming. But living and working on a floodplain can be hazardous.

Did you know?

- A large vehicle like a bus can float away in just 2 feet (60 cm) of water. Fast-flowing water can knock a person down, even at a depth of just 6 inches (15 cm).
- In 2007, flash floods in Sudan, Africa, destroyed 150,000 homes and claimed over 100 lives. Three years later, in Pakistan, the monsoon season caused severe floods that claimed 1,600 lives.
- Floodwaters flow faster through narrow valleys than they do on flatter ground – and the faster they flow, the more destruction they can cause.
- After a flood, the land can be littered with debris and untreated sewage. Power supplies and clean water can also be affected. It can take a long time for people to make their homes safe to live in again.

On 16 August 2004, the small fishing village of Boscastle in Cornwall, UK, experienced a severe flash flood. Strong winds and torrential rain brought a month's rainfall (75 ml) in just 2 hours! The deluge caused two rivers to burst their banks, sending around 2 billion litres of water through the village, devastating homes, shops and pubs and washing cars, bridges and walls away. At its worst, a wall of water 10 feet (3 metres) high was travelling up to 40 mph (64 kph) through the valley. About 50 cars were lost to the sea and around 1,000 trees were destroyed. Amazingly, no-one lost their lives thanks to a huge rescue operation that saw over 120 people rescued in seven hours. But the flood caused millions of pounds of damage. Thankfully the village has now been rebuilt and new flood defences are in place to help protect Boscastle from future incidents.

The Story of Noah

The story of Noah is amazing! It includes a family, all the animals of the earth, a huge boat, a flood and why we have rainbows.

It all starts with Noah. Noah was 500 years old he had 3 sons and after he was 500 years old things started getting very interesting for him.

One day as God was thinking about the people on earth His heart became very sad. He could see that all the people had become very bad, so bad that they stopped thinking of anything good.

God was so sad and hurt that he wanted to get rid of every person and all the creatures that He had made. He wanted all the evil to stop.

The thing about God is that He gets very angry at our sin and all the bad stuff in the world but we also know that God is love. God IS love, so that means that He can be disappointed when we do bad things but He still loves us, and that's why He remembered Noah.

Noah was the only one that was righteous (which means that he did things right). He was a good guy and he walked with God.

So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all the people because the earth is full of fighting because of them. I am going to destroy them and the earth."

God then gave Noah instructions on how to make the boat. He told him what kind of wood and how big to make it. He also told him to

put a door in the side of the ark and to make it with three floors. The ark was humongous!

The Bible says that next God told Noah that He would make a covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement with a promise. He would save Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. They would be safe in the ark because God was going to flood the whole earth and everything else would die.

I'm missing one other BIG thing that's going in the ark with Noah and his family... and that is... The animals! Two of all living creatures male and female (or the boy and girl of each). Plus two of every kind of bird and every creature that moves along the ground.

Then food for each of them for as long as they were on the boat. That's a lot of animals and a lot of food. I think it would've been a very full, noisy, stinky place to be, but they would all be safe.

It's hard to describe how big the ark actually was but if you think of some of the biggest animals you know (elephant, moose, buffalo, giraffe, rhino, gorilla) and make sure you have 2 of each of those plus all the other little animals that couldn't be stepped on...they needed a lot of room!

Some people think it took over 100 years to build the ark and the Bible says that Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters came.

Keep in mind that Noah was building a big ark because God told him to. I have a feeling Noah and his family were teased a lot from the

other people. What if your neighbour started building a huge boat on your street? It would sound a little strange...

When the ark was done God gave Noah 7 days warning before the flood to get all the animals and food on board, and told him that He would send rain for 40 days and 40 nights.

When everyone was in the ark God shut the door.

Then the rain started. The Bible makes it sound like the rain came from the clouds and that there was also water coming up from the ground. So everything probably was covered pretty quickly.

The floods kept coming for 40 whole days! The ark floated on the water and all the high mountains were completely covered with water.

Every living thing died on the earth that wasn't in the ark.

So the rain came for 40 days and nights but when it stopped Noah and the animals couldn't just leave the ark. There was too much water and no land for them to walk on, everything was covered.

The waters flooded the earth for one hundred and fifty days, which is about five months.

God remembered Noah and all that was in the ark so he sent a wind to help dry the earth. Finally in the seventh month after the floods had stopped the ark rested on the top of a mountain.

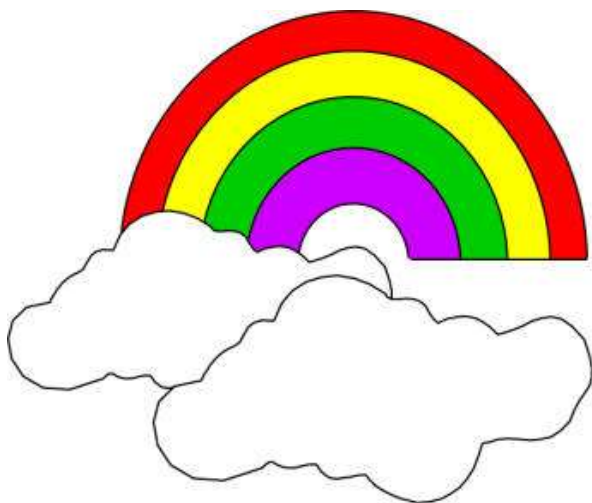
A little while after that (40 days) Noah opened a window he had made for the ark and probably let in some fresh air! Ha! Even more

importantly he let a raven out. It would fly back and forth to the ark until the water had dried.

Then he sent out a dove but the dove couldn't find any place to go. He waiting a week and then sent the dove out again. This time the dove came back with an olive leaf which meant the waters had gone down. He waited one more week and let the dove out again and this time it didn't return.

From the way the Bible describes Noah, his family and the animals were in the boat for just over a year or 370 days! That's a long time to be on a boat with all those animals!

When the earth had dried up enough God told Noah that everyone could get out of the boat. That probably was a very happy day! Maybe a little uncertain as well. There would be no one but them on earth and they would have to start all over building a house, collecting food...there wasn't a big grocery store waiting for them when they got off the ark.



Then Noah built an altar to thank God for keeping them safe. When God saw what Noah had done he told Noah that he would never again curse the ground even if people became very bad.

Then he made his official covenant with Noah and with all the animals. God would never bring a flood to kill all living creatures and destroy the whole earth again.

Then he gave them a sign for everyone to see this promise. He put a rainbow in the sky and that's to remind us of the promise God made to Noah, the animals and us today!

So, whenever you see a rainbow say a little prayer and thank God that he loves us and that He keeps His promises.

Write your own report on a flood using the newspaper writing prompt?

Village News

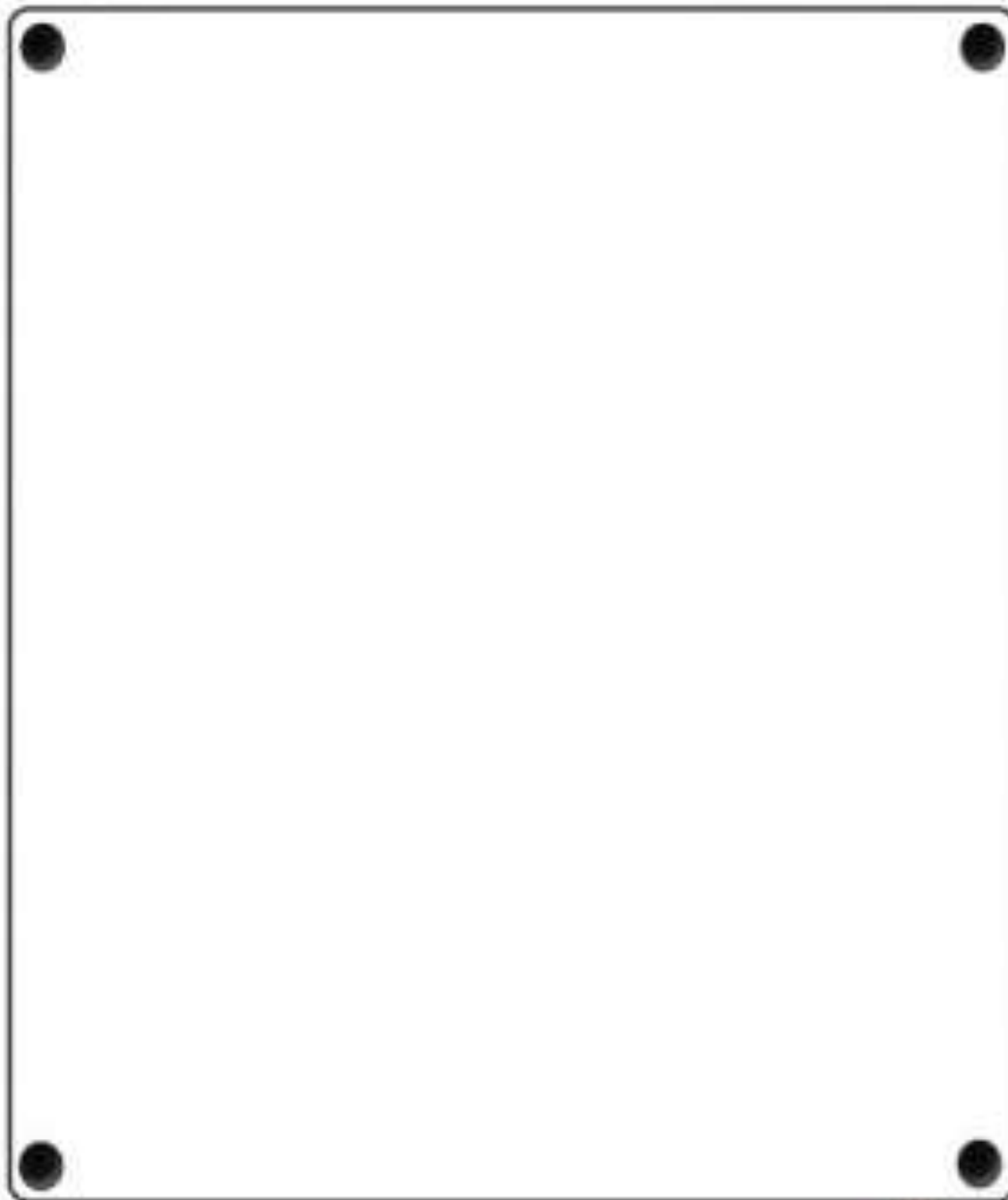
No. 12354

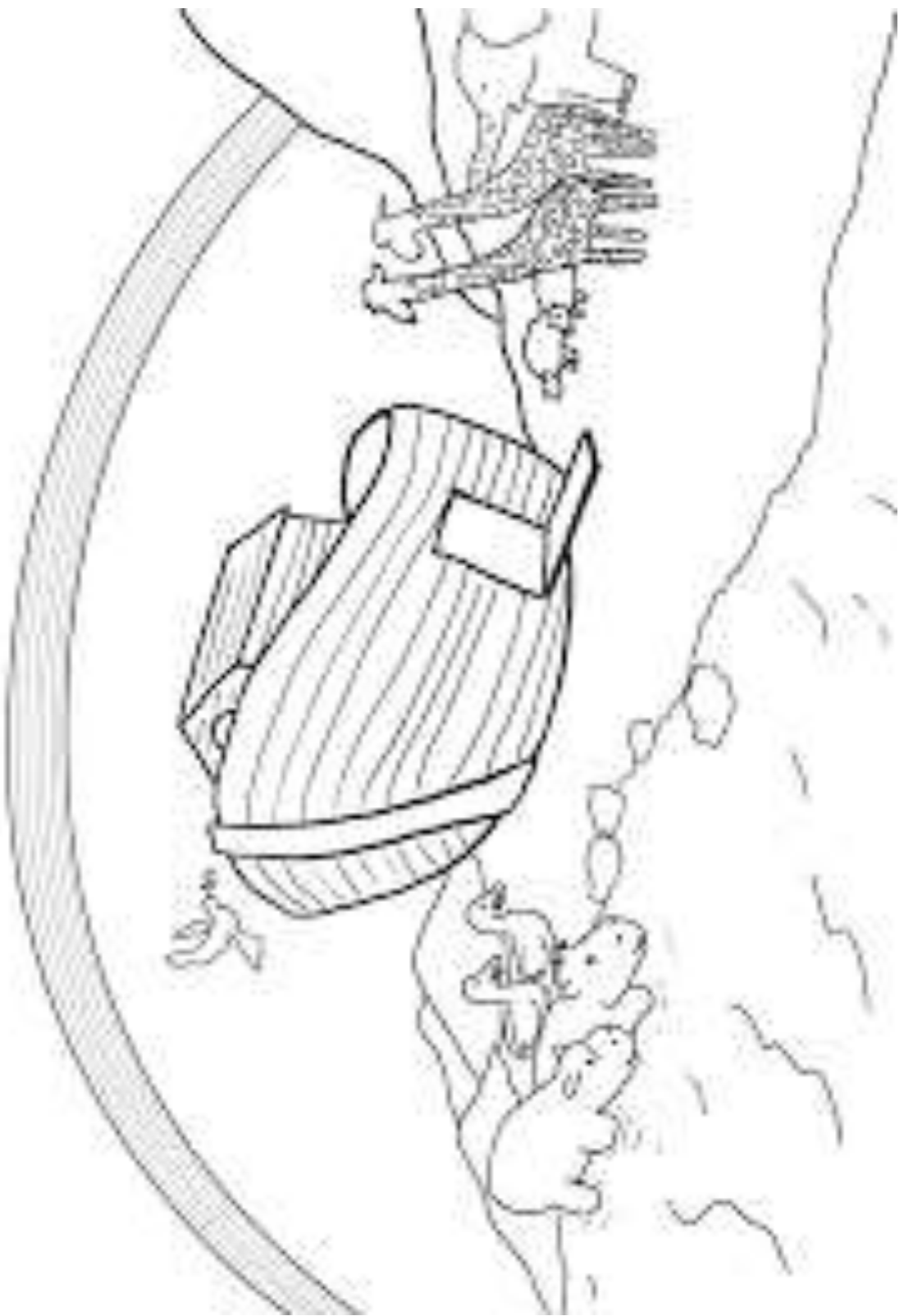


Design a poster alerting people to the dangers of floods and offer some sound advice on how to stay safe.

Floods Safety Poster

Design a poster to alert people to the dangers of floods and offer advice on what they can do to stay safe.









Can you fill in the
missing numbers?

2 4 6 ___ 10 12 ___ 16 18 20

6 8 10 ___ 14 16 18 ___

8 10 12 14 ___ ___ 20



Noah's Ark
