

Overview

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) has developed an educational game (www.vicses.com.au/stormsafe-game) which depicts a neighbourhood that has just received a severe thunderstorm warning. Players have to identify potential hazards to houses in a neighbourhood, select and fix them up, while earning items for their Home Emergency Kit.

The following lesson plan can be conducted before or after the game has been played and assists in consolidating students' learning and understanding.

It is suggested that any observations, student work or comments recorded during this lesson be displayed in your classroom, under the heading 'How to be StormSafe', for others to see and learn from.

What is a storm? How can we be prepared?

Outline	Materials	Time	Conclusion
To cover storms, what we can do to be prepared and introduce Paddy the Platypus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support material #1: Storms Support material #2: Before and after scenarios Worksheet #1: Paddy the Platypus Coloured pencils/textas <p><i>Optional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheet #2: Be StormSafe 	1 hour	Students will develop their understanding of storms and how to be prepared.

Introduction

15 minutes

- 1 Begin by asking students what rain sounds like. Brainstorm how the sound of rain can be made using our bodies and have students experiment with different body parts. Ask students to lightly tap their thighs with their hands to make the sound of rain. As a class, listen to the sound and imagine it is raining outside. Ask students if this is the sound of light rain or heavy rain. Gradually, start to increase the sound by students tapping their legs harder. Listen to the louder sound and discuss what type of rain you can hear. Lead students to the answer of a storm. Explain that a storm is when it rains heavily.
- 2 Show students **Support material #1** and discuss what they can see in the pictures. The students should now have an understanding of what a storm sounds like, discuss what a storm looks like.
- 3 Show students **Support material #2** and discuss what damage storms can do and how students and their families can be prepared.

Activity

30 minutes

- 4 Pose the following question to the students: *Where is the best place to be during a storm?* Inform students that during a storm, it is really important that they stay indoors with an adult and that they listen to the adults.
- 5 Using **Worksheet #1** introduce Paddy the Platypus as the mascot for the SES and explain that he wants us to stay safe during storms.
- 6 Distribute a copy to each student and ask them to complete it individually by colouring it in. If they have time, they could draw a picture of themselves, standing next to Paddy.

Extension activity

- Distribute a copy of **Worksheet #2** to students. Ask them to trace over the dotted words and colour (and/or circle) the item(s) which will need to be moved inside or under cover, cleared or cleaned up so the backyard is StormSafe.

Conclusion

15 minutes

- 7 Students sit in a circle holding up their worksheet(s), ask them to share what they have created.
- 8 Revise what was learnt during the class. What is a storm? What damage can storms create? What should we do during a storm? Who is the character on the worksheet?
- 9 Students are able to take their completed worksheet(s) home and share what they have learnt with their families about storms and being StormSafe.

Extension activity

- Hold a cross age class, where foundation students are paired with an older 'buddy'. With the larger group of students create a soundscape of a storm. If instruments are available, students can use instruments. Have a few students begin the start of a storm and gradually build it up to the storm with the wind blowing and bring the storm back to light rain. Have the foundation students share what they have learnt about storms with their 'buddy'.



Support material #1

Storms

Foundation (Prep)







Support material #2



Before and after scenarios

Foundation (Prep)



Tie down loose objects.



Or they may fly into windows or buildings



Remove loose branches.

Strong wind can easily snap branches and smash into fences and other property.



Hail could damage and dent the car.

Park the car undercover





Worksheet #1

Paddy the Platypus

Foundation (Prep)



Name

Paddy says...

Be Storm Safe





Worksheet #2



Be StormSafe

Foundation (Prep)

Name

Prepare your
backyard before
a storm hits.

