

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 damage can storms create, how can we keep safe and what is an emergency kit?

Outline	Materials	Time	Conclusion
To develop an understanding of storms and how to be prepared.	- Support material #1: Before and after scenarios - Worksheet #1: Home Emergency Kit items - Support material #2: Home Emergency Kit items - Writing paper and pens	1 hour	Students will have a good understanding of how to be prepared for a storm and what items are contained in a Home Emergency Kit and why they may be necessary during and after an emergency.

Introduction

15 minutes

- 1 Begin a discussion on storms, what storms are and if the students have had any experiences to do with storms.
- 2 Explain that storms can be dangerous and can cause damage. Show students *Support material #1* but only show the before part of the picture, cover up the after picture. Discuss what students can see in the before picture and what damage might occur during the storm. Show the after pictures to see if students were correct in their predictions.
- 3 With the students, brainstorm ways in which you can be prepared for a storm. Write suggestions on the whiteboard.

Activity

30 minutes

- 4 To make sure you are prepared in your homes during a storm or in case of an emergency, it is important to have a Home Emergency Kit. The SES recommends having a kit to help you during and after most emergencies. There are 12 objects that are recommended to have in your kit.
- 5 Split students into groups of three–four, distribute a copy of *Worksheet #1* and give them 20 minutes to brainstorm and write down what the 12 objects might be. Explain to students that at the end of the lesson, you will tell them what objects the Home Emergency Kit contains and for every object they choose correctly, they will get a point. The team with the most points will become the StormSafe champions.

- 6 To help point students in the right direction, you can give them some clues such as: *What would you need if there was damage to your street and you couldn't leave your house for a few days? What would you need if there was a power outage? What would you need to take with you if you had to evacuate your house for a period of time?*

Conclusion

15 minutes

- 7 Have the students write their names on their worksheet, collect and distribute them randomly. Every group should have a list to correct that is not theirs.
- 8 Go through the list of what a Home Emergency Kit should contain and students mark the correct responses. As you go through the items, discuss why it would be important to have that item in case of an emergency during a storm. A kit should contain:
1. A battery or wind-up radio.
 2. A battery or wind-up torch.
 3. Spare batteries to fit radio and torch.
 4. A first aid kit.
 5. Rubber gloves and strong leather work or garden gloves.
 6. Mobile phone and charger.
 7. A waterproof bag or container for: valuables, important papers, identification ID, wills, photos, phone numbers, etc.
 8. A good supply of everyone's medicines and prescriptions.
 9. Strong shoes or boots.
 10. A copy of your Home or Business Emergency Plan.
 11. Special needs for babies, the disabled or elderly (bottles, glasses, etc).
 12. Enough non-perishable food and drinking water for every person (and pets) for three days.
- 9 Students count up and report the scores. Find out which group are the StormSafe champions.
- 10 Show **Support material #2** which depicts the Home Emergency Kit items and have a discussion on which items most people guessed correctly and which no one guessed.
- 11 Revise what has been learnt throughout the lesson.

Extension activity

- Students can imagine they are in a storm and write a narrative. Before they begin writing, they can think about what the storm would sound like, how the characters would feel and what might happen during a storm. Students can publish and share their writing with other classes.



Support material #1



Before and after scenarios

Grades 5 & 6



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

Home Emergency Kit items

Grades 5 & 6



Group name _____

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

Support material #2

Home Emergency Kit items

Grades 5 & 6



1. A battery operated or wind-up radio – to listen for warnings, updates or alerts.



7. A waterproof bag or container – to keep valuables dry and safe. Valuables may include important papers, photographs, etc.



2. A battery operated or wind-up torch – in case of power outages to help you see in the dark.



8. A good supply of everyone's medicines and prescriptions – in case you have to leave your house then you won't waste time finding these important items.



3. Spare batteries to fit radio and torch.



9. Strong shoes or boots – so you can walk safely around if there is damage.



4. A first aid kit – to assist with any medical issues that may arise.



10. A copy of your Home Emergency Plan – every house should have a plan of what to do in an emergency.



5. Rubber gloves and strong leather work or garden gloves – to enable you to pick up/move heavy/sharp items. Rubber gloves prevent liquids touching your skin.



11. Special needs – if someone in your house has special needs, such as a walking stick, or babies milk it's important to have these in case you have to leave quickly.



6. Mobile phone and charger – to stay in contact with people if the telephone line goes down.



12. Non-perishable food and drinking water for every person and pets to last for 3 days – in case there is damage and you are unable to leave your house for a period of time.