

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

October 13, 2016

Article: “Heavy rain, strong winds”

Wednesday, October 12, 2016 in the print replica of The Seattle Times, NW Wednesday, page B1

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7

Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Objective:

Students will read an informational article about and learn how to prepare for a storm.

Pre-Reading:

What is the biggest storm you have ever been in? How did you prepare? Do you think that you were prepared enough?

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

agency

debris

forecasters

gutters

inland

interior

meteorologists

prepared

shutters

unprecedented

Comprehension:

1. Where will the series of storms be sweeping over starting on Wednesday?
2. How many inches of rain are meteorologists predicting?
3. How strong could Thursday's wind gusts be?
4. Why might conditions out on the beach be life-threatening?
5. When is it usual to get into storm season?
6. Name two preparation tips for high winds:

Post-Reading:

Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:

“A series of storms will sweep over Western Washington starting Wednesday, bringing heavy rain and strong winds through the weekend. Forecasters are urging people to be prepared.”

What are some things that your family can do to prepare for the storms? What are some things that you specifically can do around the house to help prepare? Why is it important to be prepared for storms? What are some things that you can expect during the storm?

Building Language Skills:

After reading the article, complete the activity below:

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather> or <http://takewinterbystorm.org/> to learn more about preparing for winter storms. Follow the steps to make sure that you and your family know how to adequately prepare for any upcoming storms. Do you have a family communication plan? Do you have an emergency kit prepared? Take the steps to make sure you are prepared for this weekend's storms!

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. Western Washington
2. More than three inches of rain between Wednesday night and Sunday
3. There could be gusts of 40 to 50 mph on Thursday night
4. Because of how big the waves will be.
5. Around October.
6. Students should name two of the follow preparation tips:
 - a. Trim tree branches away from homes and power lines.
 - b. Secure loose gutters and shutters.
 - c. Identify an interior room to use as shelter.

- d. Have emergency supplies ready, such as food and water to last for three days per person in a household.
- e. Make a list of items outside that must be tied down or put away.