

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

November 10, 2016

Article: "Take Winter By Storm"

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Standard:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2

Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Objective:

Students will read an informational text about storm preparedness, and then test their knowledge by playing a winter preparedness board game.

Pre-Reading:

What is an emergency? What sort of things might you need in an emergency?

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.

Antiseptic

Battery

contaminated

Emergency

evacuation

extinguisher

Flashlight

forecast

fuel

insulation

Multipurpose

Comprehension:

1. How many days of essentials should you have for your family and pets? At least three days, preferably seven to ten
2. How much water should you have per person per day? One gallon of water per person for at least three days
3. Place copies of which important documents in a waterproof bag? Driver's license and/or birth certificate; bank account information; insurance cards, policy numbers and insurer contact information
4. Why should you remove fallen leaves and debris from storm drains? To prevent street flooding
5. How can you protect outdoor faucets from freezing? By wrapping them using outdoor faucet covers or insulation
6. How many times a year should you review and practice your Family Emergency Communication Plan? Twice a year

Post-Reading:

“Every year Western Washington is faced with natural disasters — hazardous winter weather storms. Preparing our communities for our annual weather hazards will lead them through the steps to be prepared for unforeseen and even catastrophic disasters.”

Discuss the following questions in a group:

Why are storms dangerous? Why is it important to be prepared for storms? Have you ever been in a storm where you felt afraid? When? Does your family have an emergency plan? If so, what is it?

Building Language Skills:

After reading the article, complete the game on the back page:

Get winter weather prepared by cutting out the pictures to the left and glue them next to the matching clue on the roadmap as you travel around the board. Read out loud the tips for winter weather preparedness. Once you're prepared, and have covered all the spaces on the board, have your parents take a picture and post it to the 'Take Winter By Storm' Facebook Page.

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. At least three days, preferably seven to ten
2. One gallon of water per person for at least three days
3. Driver's license and/or birth certificate; bank account information; insurance cards, policy numbers and insurer contact information
4. To prevent street flooding
5. By wrapping them using outdoor faucet covers or insulation
6. Twice a year