



Teacher Resource

# NT and QLD Floods

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Which parts of Australia have been impacted by heavy rainfall and flooding recently?
2. Fill in the gaps. The Katherine River peaked at \_\_\_\_ metres, causing the towns worst flooding in nearly \_\_\_\_ years.
3. What impact have the floods had on people and communities?
4. What damage did the floods cause?
5. What type of weather system caused the wet weather in northern Australia?

## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN NT and QLD Floods story as a class. Ask students what they know about floods. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What do you know about the recent floods in Australia?
- What has caused the floods?
- What impact have the floods had on people and communities?
- What questions do you have?

## Activity: Comprehension

After watching the BTN NT and QLD Floods story students can answer one or more of the following comprehension questions, for example:

- What are some keywords from the BTN story?
- What did you learn from the story? Write a summary.
- What is the purpose of this news story? To entertain, persuade, inform, explain or describe?
- Why do you think BTN covered this story?



### EPISODE 7

17 March 2026

### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about how heavy rainfall and flooding can affect people and places in Australia.

### CURRICULUM

#### Science – Year 6

Sudden geological changes and extreme weather events can affect Earth's surface.

Science involves testing predictions by gathering data and using evidence to develop explanations of events and phenomena and reflects historical and cultural contributions.

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

#### Geography – Year 5

The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond.

#### Geography – Year 7

Causes, impacts and responses to an atmospheric or hydrological hazard.

## Activity: Key Words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN NT and QLD Floods story. Here are some words to get them started.

Flood

Rainfall

Meteorologist

Evacuation

Tropics

Severe Weather

Low Pressure

Wet Season

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

## Activity: Visual Literacy

In this activity students will analyse a range of images which show the impact of floods on people and communities in Australia. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following:

- What is happening in the image? Create a caption for each image.
- How does the image make you feel?
- What does the image tell you about the impact that floods can have on a community?
- What questions do you have about what you see in the image?



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)

## Further Investigation

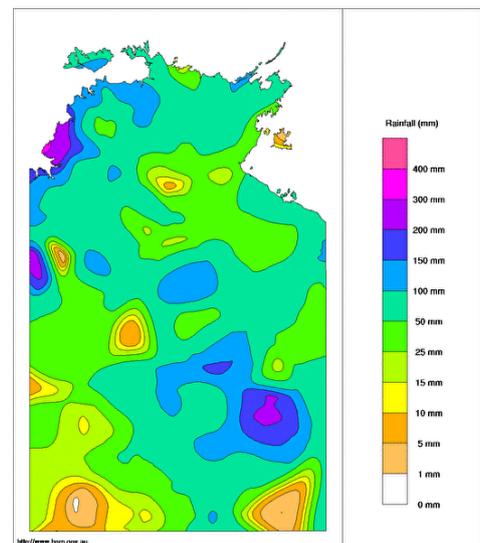
Students will then develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

- How does the wet season affect people in northern Australia?
- What challenges can flooding create for communities?
- How does the wet season affect rivers, waterfalls and wetlands?
- How might the wet season impact transport and travel?
- How can communities stay safe during storms and heavy rain?

## Activity: Understanding Rainfall

Students will start to think like a meteorologist and analyse this [map](#) of the Northern Territory produced by the Bureau of Meteorology. Students will then respond to the following questions:

- What features do you see on this map? Make a list.
- What does the map tell us?
- What does it measure?
- What area does it cover?
- What period of time does this map cover?
- What is the purpose of this map?
- Find a map which shows the total rainfall for Northern Territory a week prior, and a week later and then compare. What are your findings?



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

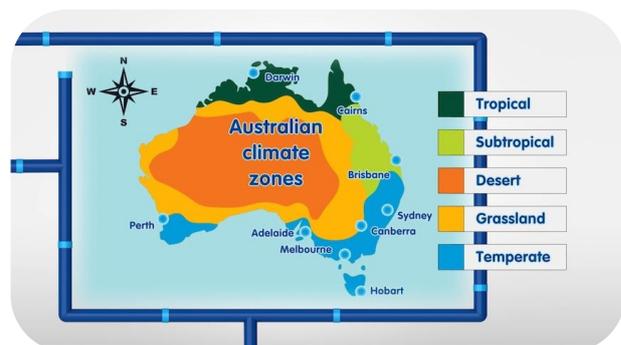
### Further investigation

- What is rainfall?
- How is rainfall measured? What instruments are used to measure rainfall?
- Who measures rainfall?
- What is a rain gauge? Investigate and then create your own school rain gauge. Record the daily rainfall and calculate the average daily rainfall.

## Activity: Australian Climate Zones

The amount of water in our environment is influenced by the climate. Across Australia, there are six broad climate zones. Climate is the average weather conditions of a place for a long period of time, while weather is the atmospheric conditions (e.g. a hot day, rain or cool conditions) for a brief period.

Watch this [ABC Education video](#) as a class to learn more about Australian climate zones and then respond to the following.



Acknowledgement: Melbourne Water in partnership with ABC Education.

### Things to think about

- What climate zone do you live in, and how does it affect the weather where you live?
- What are the positives and negatives of floods?
- List the types of floods and droughts in Australia.
- What is the link between the water cycle and climate change?

### Activities to do

1. Create a picture diary of the different weather and seasons where you live. Your diary should include annotations explaining how the weather changes throughout a year.
2. Using a map of Australia, mark and label where you live. Write down the climate zone. Then, using the Bureau of Meteorology website:
  - a. Find the average monthly temperature and rainfall data for your school or home.
  - b. Select a location from a different climate zone and collect its annual temperature and rainfall data.
  - c. Briefly describe any differences and similarities in rainfall and temperature. You can add pictures to your description.
3. There's only a set amount of water on Earth. Investigate the different ways we can look after it and write a short report.

## Useful Websites

- [Water, weather and climate](#) – ABC Education
- [Floods](#) – Geoscience Australia
- [Things you can do before a flood](#) – NSW SES
- [Wet Season Signs](#) – ABC Science
- [Understanding Floods](#) – Bureau of Meteorology