

# Lesson Plan: Soquel residents receive little warning that homes would flood



Reading comprehension

Grade Level: 9-12      Lesson time: 30 minutes

## Overview

Lookout's News Quizzes are a great way to get students interested in local news in an easy and quick way. These quizzes test reading comprehension while getting students more informed on issues and happenings in the community.

## How best to use this in your classroom

Quizzes are sorted by date and headline and updated frequently. Choose an article related to one of your current teachings. Have students read the article, answer the 10 questions and then share any observations. This is a great reading comprehension and media literacy activity. It could also be a great way to give students extra credit opportunities in your class, a lesson to share when you have a substitute teacher and/or a great icebreaker to connect students with local issues.

## LESSON PLAN

- Share this article with your students and have them read it. This can be assigned as homework or done in class (10 min)

### **Neighbors along Soquel Creek say they had little warning their homes were about to flood**

- Share the questions with your class and have them answer the questions, either individually or in small groups. Find our Questions doc for a printable or shareable document (10 min)
- Using the answer key, you can either grade this quiz or have a class discussion around it (10 min)

# News Quiz Questions & Answer Key



1. How high of flood water did Soquel Wharf Road residents encounter in their backyards, garages and driveways?

A: Four feet

2. What distinguishes the homes located between Robertson/Wharf Road and Porter Street/Bay Avenue from the elevated homes on a hill located north of them?

A: The homes on Robertson/Wharf Road and Porter Street/Bay Avenue are accessed by a road that declines toward the Soquel Creek, making them low-lying and more susceptible to flooding.

3. According to resident Letysia Moresco, what were residents' main concern with the lack of flood support from government officials?

A: The lack of transparency, accountability and communications left residents fending for themselves during a time of extreme need.

4. According to Santa Cruz County Supervisor, Manu Koenig, how many times were county officials assured that Soquel Creek would NOT be in harm's way of the flood?

A: Three times

5. According to Koenig, what were the most likely reasons for the unprecedented flooding in the Soquel Creek area?

A: Several blockages, including one at the Paper Mill Road footbridge, another behind the Old Mill Mobile Home Park, and a third by the Soquel Valero.

6. According to resident Ashley Harper, what is one concern regarding safety for Soquel Wharf Road residents?

A: The isolation of being located in a floodplain down by the creek makes the area a "no man's land" where many people are unaware of the residents and their homes.

7. What sorts of home damages did residents encounter as a result of the flood?

A: Electrical outages, gas leakages, and water system disruptions

8. What safety measures did Shandara Gill and Molly Welch's tenants take to avoid damage from the flood?

A: The tenants placed as many belongings as they could on their bed and couch and left to stay at a friend's house, only to return to two feet of floodwater & a layer of mud.

# News Quiz Questions & Answer Key



9. According to a County of Santa Cruz planning department placard on Gill & Welch's home, what makes their unit "potentially unsafe" after the flood?

A: The first-floor unit's damage to the electrical system, insulation and the sheetrock renders the unit "potentially unsafe" and "under restricted use".

10. What is one positive contribution that resulted within the Soquel Creek community from the flood's ordeal?

A: The camaraderie exhibited between the residents who helped vacationing neighbors move parked cars out of the flooding, shoveled piles of mud out of driveways together, and cleaned out garages is one positive example of the community's resilience.

Open Ended: What do you think the government should do differently to support residents during potential flooding situations in the future?