



# LESSON 5: TYPES OF FLOODING

Last updated: March 2026

## Aim

- To learn the different types of flooding and understand that flooding can happen in lots of different ways.

## Lesson Objectives

- To name and define the different types of flooding.
- To understand that flooding can happen in lots of different ways and why.

## Assumed Prior Knowledge

- Flooding occurs when a river overflows.

## Resources

- Video of Whaley Bridge and Toddbrook reservoir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRuiD0-FkzU>
- Match up exercise.
- True or false interactive game.
- Fill in the blanks exercise task for homework.

## Assessment

- Optional mini test for who manages the risk of flooding.
- The pupils will complete the following worksheets:
  - In class exercise: Types of flooding match up exercise.
  - Homework: Fill in the blanks worksheets.

## Lesson Outcomes

- Understand that not all flooding is caused by rivers.
- Learn that people wrongly believe many things about flooding and explain why these aren't true.

## Differentiation

- Class discussion.
- Comprehension exercise.

## Skills For Life

- Communication.

## Curriculum Links

- Geography.
- English.



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**All the blank worksheets for this lesson can be found as a separate download within the 'Lesson 5' page of The Flood Hub KS2 learning section. The answers for the worksheets can be found at the end of this document.**

**This lesson is mainly led by the teacher and involves the pupils listening and making notes when instructed by the teacher, as opposed to lots of class exercises.**

## **Slide 1**

- Slide containing the lesson aims and objectives.

## **Slides 2 to 8 – Types of flooding**

- Each slide contains a type of flooding and its definition.
- Slide 8 contains a video about Whaley Bridge and Toddbrook reservoir flooding.

## **Slide 9 – Worksheet: Types of flooding**

- This match up exercise can be distributed to the pupils or copied down into their workbooks.
- The answers will appear on the slide.

## **Slide 10 – Who manages the risk of flooding?**

- Slide showing who manages the risk of flooding. This could be made into a mini test in which pupils could be asked to go home and learn who manages the risk of flooding. Teachers could ask the pupils to number 1 – 6 and ask the pupils, for example, “who manages the risk of flooding from main rivers?”

## **Slides 11 to 16 – True or false exercise**

- Encourage pupils to raise their hands to say whether they think the statement is true or false each time.
- Answers are revealed on the slide and pupils could copy them down in their workbooks.

## **Slide 17 – Homework**

- There are two fill in the blanks exercises to complete. All the answers are based on the information covered in class.



# WORKSHEET: TYPES OF FLOODING

Draw a line to match up each type of flooding with its definition.

**River flooding**

When a dam wall collapses causing a release of a large amount of water.



**Surface water flooding**

This happens when sewers have too much water in them after heavy rainfall, or when the sewers become blocked by people flushing the wrong things down the toilet.

**Coastal flooding**

When the water overtops its banks and spills over, covering an area of land that is usually dry.



**Reservoir flooding**

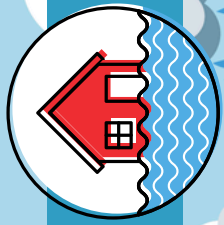
When normally dry, low lying flat land is flooded by the sea.



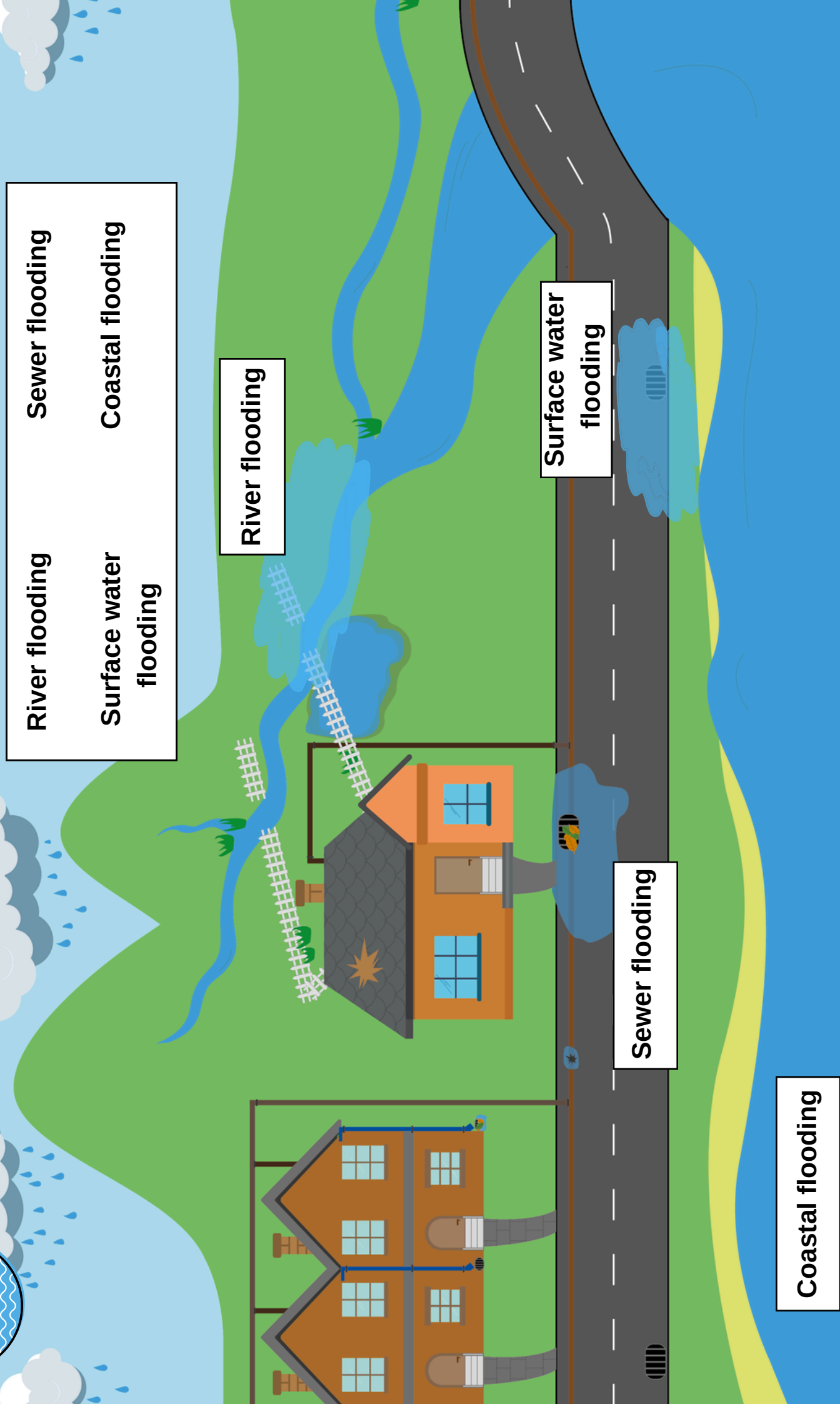
**Sewer flooding**

This occurs when the water cannot soak into the land or flow into drains so the water flows over the land instead.





# HOMEWORK: TYPES OF FLOODING



River flooding

Surface water flooding

Sewer flooding

Coastal flooding

River flooding

Surface water flooding

Sewer flooding

Coastal flooding



# HOMEWORK: TYPES OF FLOODING

Fill in the blanks from the words below.

**River flooding** is the type of flooding that occurs when a **river** overtops its banks and spills over covering an area of normally dry land. The Environment Agency manage the risk of this type of flooding. **2.7 million** people are at risk of this type of flooding.

**Surface water** flooding occurs when runoff cannot soak into the land or flow into drains so it flows over the **land** instead. **Blocked drains** and **sewers** can increase the risk of this type of flooding as the water has nowhere to go. **Councils** manage the risk of this type of flooding. More people are at risk of this type of flooding in England than any other type with over **3 million** at risk.

When flooding happens due to heavy rainfall and occurs with little or no warning, this is called **flash flooding**. This can happen on land which has been **dry** for a long time and in urban areas with large amounts of hard surfaces.

Flooding from sewers occurs when there is too much water in them after heavy rainfall or people flush the wrong things down the **toilet**. **Water companies** are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from sewers.

**Coastal flooding** occurs when normally dry, low lying flat land at the coast is flooded by the sea. This type of flooding is often caused by **storms**, **high tides** and **strong winds**. The **Environment Agency** manage the risk of this type of flooding.

**Reservoir flooding** is similar to river flooding and surface water flooding if the water escapes slowly. However, if the dam wall does not work properly, it can fall down and release a large amount of water. This type of flooding is unlikely to happen and is managed by the Environment Agency.

2.7 Million

3 million

Blocked drains

Coastal flooding

Councils

Dry

Environment Agency

Flash flooding

High tides

Land

Reservoir flooding

River

River flooding

Sewers

Storms

Strong winds

Surface Water

Toilet

Water companies

