1. What is a river?

2. Why do people sometimes drown in a flood?

1. How can melted snow cause a flood?

2. Why does water spread quickly over flat land?

3. After some floods, a fine layer of soil covers the land. Where does it come from?

1. Explain why people cannot live in houses that have been damaged by a flood.

A river is a long stream of flowing water. It has banks on either side. A river floods when there is more water flowing in it than it can hold. The extra water spills over the banks and spreads across the land.
Water that causes a flood can come from rainfall. When there is a small amount of rain, land near a river can soak up some of the water.
But if there is more rain than usual, the soil, trees and grass nearby cannot soak it all up. The water that is not soaked up runs into the river.
Floods can also be caused by melted snow or by water from a dam that has a break in the wall.
If the land beside the flooded river is flat, the extra water can spread quickly. It will cover a large area in a short time.

Floods can damage buildings or ruin crops.
Then people may have nowhere to live and no food to eat. Sometimes people drown in floods. The water level often rises very quickly. There is not always enough time to warn people to move to higher land.
However, not all floods cause problems. Sometimes a flood leaves a layer of fine soil on the surface of the land. This soil is very good for growing the next season's crops.