

4th & 5th Grade Mini-Unit

Mini-unit summary:

The objective of this unit is to create a presentation that can be given to Kindergarten through 3rd grade classes at your school.

Lesson 1 introduces the concept of, **“Make a Plan. Build a Kit. Stay Informed.”**

The rest of the unit is based on conducting research and coordinating a presentation in cooperative learning groups.

Make sure to include corresponding literature so that children can explore these issues in-depth independently and even as a part of work stations. Some appropriate books include:

- Preparing for Disasters by Bobbie Kalman. Published by Crabtree Publishing Company in 2009.
- Good Answers to Tough Questions About Disasters by Joy Berry. Published by Joy Berry Enterprises in 2008.
- Safety During Emergencies by Lucia Raatma. Published by Child’s World in 2003.

Materials: Internet Connection
Computers for group research
Blackline Masters J–P
Various materials to create a presentation



Lesson 1: How can I prepare for an emergency?

Objective: Students will be able to identify what an emergency is and understand how making a plan can make emergencies safer.

Materials: Internet connection

Time: 45 minutes

Lesson Plan: As a whole group, explore the Web site, <http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>. Closely explore steps 1, 2, and 3, Create a Kit, Make a Plan, and Know the Facts, respectively.

Then move to information on disasters that can affect the Houston region. Explore <http://readyclassroom.discoveryeducation.com>.

Note: At any point in the unit, send home Blackline Master Q and Ready Houston booklets for children to complete with parent/guardian. Students who bring back the completed Blackline Master Q can display it on a classroom wall with the Ready Houston poster.

Lesson 2 – 5: Create a presentation for the rest of the school

Objective: Students will research a component of disaster preparedness and synthesize their information into a presentation format.

Materials: Internet connection, material for note-taking, material for creating a presentation (various); Blackline Masters J–P

Time: 4 sessions of 45 minutes each

Lesson Plan: Divide your class into the following categories:

- Group 1: What is an emergency?
- Group 2: Community Helpers and First Responders
- Group 3: Make a Plan.
- Group 4: Build a Kit.
- Group 5: Explanation of disasters that can affect Houston

The blackline masters give them some focus and resources for research. As each school is different, you will need to guide your students as to how you would like for them to present to other children. Some ideas:

- Create a PowerPoint presentation
- Create a video
- Create a skit
- Create an i-movie or Windows Movie
- Present to entire grade levels, the entire school, or buddy between classes

Materials your students require will depend on the type of presentation.

Time management is often a problem in creating group presentations.

Consider this timeline:

- Two 45-minute sessions to conduct research on your topic and decide how you will present on your topic
- Two 45-minute sessions to create presentations

The teacher's role in this project is facilitator. The most important issue is to make sure the children's presentations inform, but do not scare younger children. Your class will need your guidance in making that a reality.

Blackline Master O is an opportunity for the children to be reflective on their work.

Blackline Master P is a rubric for grading the presentation.