

Emergency Preparedness

Month: May
 Week #: 34
 Day: c. Wed. Time: 30 min.

The Thunderstorm Survival Game

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: know what to do in the event of a severe thunderstorm and know how to deal with the associated flash flood, lightning or tornado.

Materials

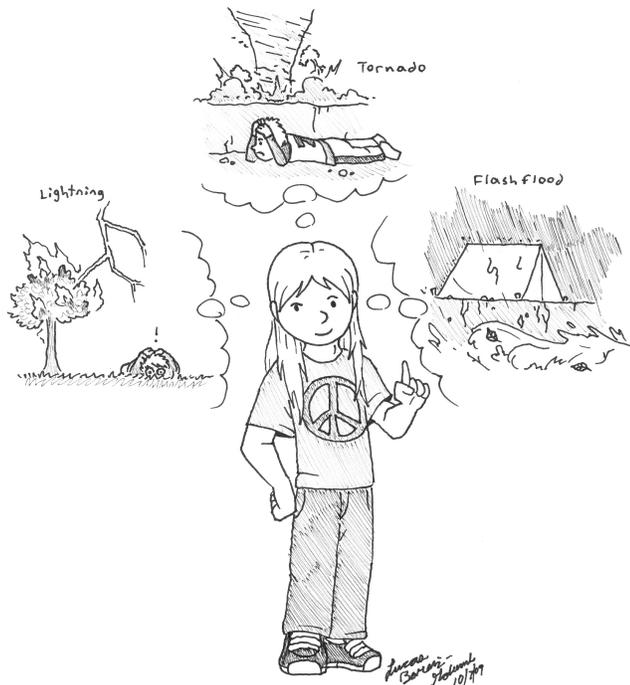
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Illustration

Madison is thinking about what to do in the case of a severe thunderstorm. What ideas did she come up with?

Background

Based on a 30 year average, 204 people lose their lives to floods, lightning strikes or tornados each year in the United States. Students need to recognize the weather conditions that can lead to a severe thunderstorm and know what to do if such an event takes place.



Group Activity

1. Say, “Today we’re going to play a game to help you to learn how to survive a severe thunderstorm. And when I say survive, I mean that in the

most serious sense. On average, 200 people every year lose their lives to floods, lightning strikes or tornados in the United States. So yes, this game is a matter of survival. You all will be playing the game both individually and as a class. The goal of the game is to have as many of your classmates survive as possible. I will be reading a survival question and calling upon one student to answer it. After the student answers it, the rest of the class has a chance, by a hand vote, to either agree or disagree with their answer. This means all of you are responsible for the final answer. If the answer is wrong, the student who gave the initial answer will die. However, they will not be out of the game as they will become a ‘ghost’ who can still vote, but can no longer give the initial answer.”

Game Questions

1. Flash Flood:

- Your family wants to camp by a beautiful little creek. However, you heard on an earlier weather forecast that there was a chance of severe thunderstorms in the late afternoon. In addition you look upstream, towards the mountains, and notice heavy, dark clouds forming. What should your family do and why? *A: They should camp on higher ground because there could be a thunderstorm upriver that could send a flash flood their way.*
- True or false: You can outrun a flash flood. *A: False*
- You’re hiking along a stream and you notice a sudden rise in the water level. What should you do and why? *A: Quickly get to higher ground because there might be a flashflood.*

Game Questions (continued)

- You notice some children playing down in a drainage ditch, crawling in and out of a culvert. In the distance you hear the rumble of thunder. What should you do? *A: Tell them to get out because there might be a storm that causes a flash flood. If they don't listen to you, report it to an adult.*
- True or false and why: It is safe to cross flowing water that is over your ankles. *A: False, because flowing water has a lot of force and weight and can knock over a child.*

2. Lightning:

- If you see a lightning flash and hear the thunder five seconds later, how far away is the lightning? *A: 1 mile*
- What should you do if you see a lightning flash in the distance and hear thunder 30 seconds later? *A: Stop all outdoor activities and seek shelter.*
- True or false: If you count 15 seconds or less between lightning and thunder, (meaning 3 miles away or less), you are in danger of being struck by lightning. *A: True. You are in danger of becoming toast.*
- True or false: In a thunder storm it is good idea to seek shelter under a tree because it will help keep you dry and the lightning will hit the tree and not you. *A: False, because while the tree might keep you drier, it can act as a 'wire' that connects the lightning and you.*
- True or false: Are you safe from lightning inside a car? *A: Yes, because the rubber tires help prevent the car from being a conductor of the electricity.*

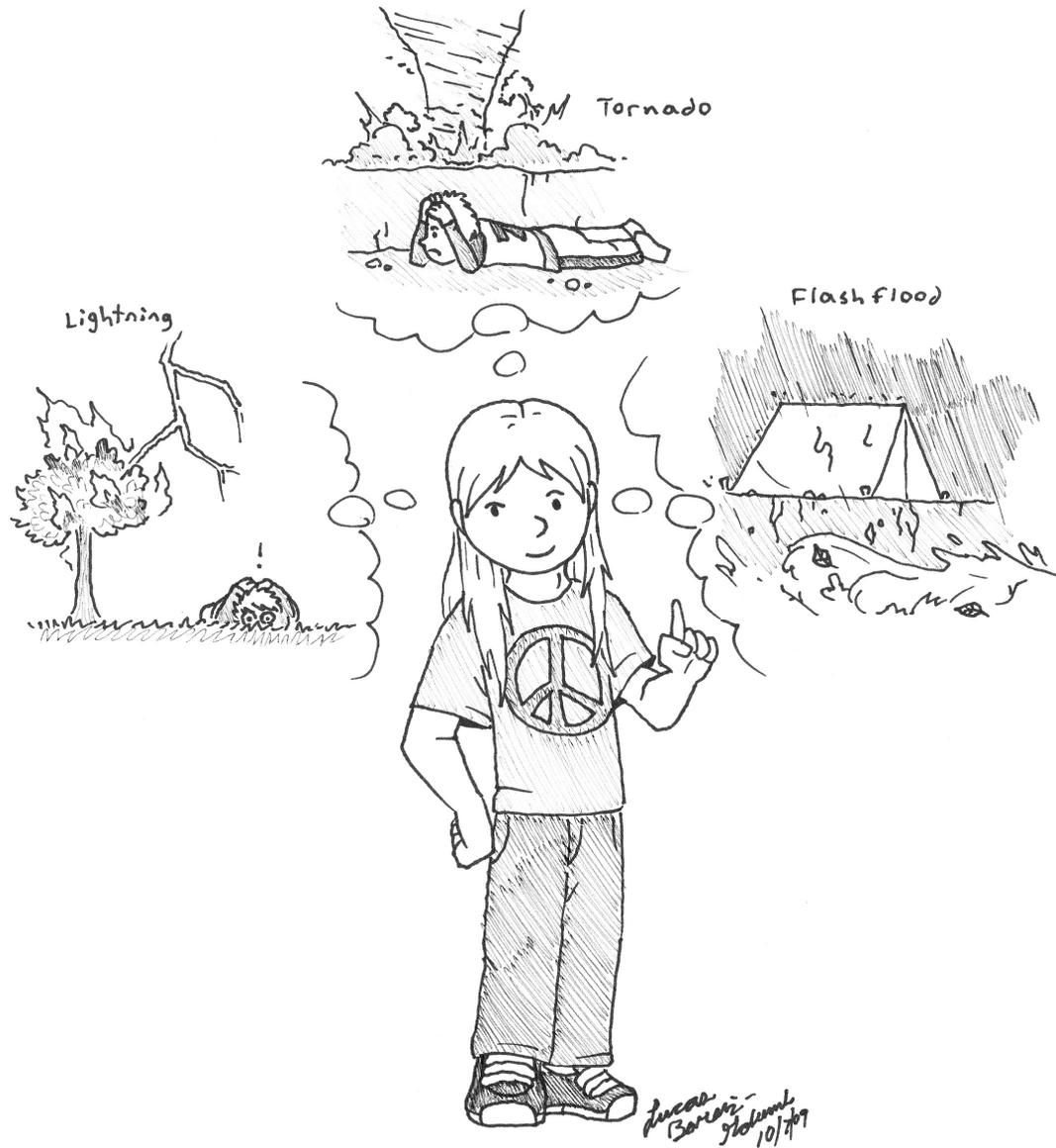
3. Tornadoes:

- What does a tornado warning mean? *A: A tornado has been sighted and shelter should be immediately sought.*
- True or false: The safest place to wait out a tornado warning is in an underground space like a basement or storm shelter. *A: True.*
- True or false: It's a good idea and fun to watch tornadoes behind the safety of a glass window. *A: False. Windows can easily shatter from the strong winds of a tornado, hard objects being thrown against the glass or a change in air pressure.*
- If you are outside and can't make it indoors for shelter you should: A) Run away from the oncoming tornado, B) Lie flat in a ditch or ravine and put your hands over your head, C) Go look for your mom or dad, or D) Stand perfectly still and close your eyes. *A: B) Lie flat in a ditch and put your hands over your head.*
- If the weather is threatening, how can you find out if there is a tornado coming or not? *A: Listen to a local radio or TV station.*

Conclusion

Say, "Whether you survived this game or not depended on making the right choices. It's the same thing in real life, except in real life making the wrong choice could get you injured or even cost you your life."

Emergency Preparedness: The Thunderstorm Survival Game



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What ideas did she come up with?**