# 12 The Flood



## Pre-Reading

**Think about the following questions.**

1. Have you heard any stories of a great flood in the past?
2. Where did you hear this story? Who told it to you?
3. Is this story true, or is it just a legend?

## Vocabulary Preview

**Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.**

| | |
|---|---|
| a. built | d. are not similar |
| b. made guesses | e. parts |
| c. run away from; avoid | f. story |

1. ___ In the <u>legend</u> of the great flood, water covered all the land.
2. ___ Noah <u>constructed</u> a big boat to save his family and many animals.
3. ___ A big storm is coming! We should leave now to <u>escape</u> any danger.
4. ___ Some parts of the legends <u>differ</u> between cultures.
5. ___ Scientists have <u>speculated</u> about where all the water from the flood went.
6. ___ Some <u>elements</u> that are the same in each story include a man, a boat, a flood, and a mountain.


LIVEWORKSHEETS

# The Flood

Track 23

Have you heard about the great **flood**? Perhaps you have heard about a man named Noah, who built a huge boat to escape the flood. In this legend of the great flood, water covered all the land, killing most of the people and animals on Earth. Only Noah's **immediate** family, including his wife, three sons, and the sons' wives, survived the flood, **along with** all of the animals on his boat. After the flood waters **receded**, the people and animals on Noah's boat set about **repopulating** the Earth. This legend of Noah and his family is familiar to many people. However, it is not the only legend about a great flood. Actually, many cultures have similar stories about a great flood that wiped out almost everyone on Earth.

In the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian legends of the flood, Noah was warned by God that a great flood would kill every human and animal on land. God told Noah to construct a boat that would save his family and two of every animal. In a Hindu legend of the flood, a fish warned a man about the flood, and only the man was saved. Then the gods made a woman for the man, and the man and woman had many children. The Greek, Roman, and Chinese legends of the flood say that only people on the highest mountain survived the flood. In Scandinavian and **Celtic** legends, the water of the flood was actually the blood of a giant. When the giant was killed, its body became the Earth, and its blood covered all the land. There are also Incan, Mayan, and Native American legends about a great flood. In each of these legends, a few people live through the flood by climbing mountains or by constructing boats.

Many people today believe that the great flood is only a legend. However, other people say that the **striking** similarities among all of the flood legends suggest that a real flood covered the Earth at some point long ago. In fact, some scientists speculate that the ancient flood waters are now frozen in glaciers at the poles of the Earth. But why do the legends disagree with each other? The flood happened long before humans could write, so the story of the flood could only be passed down through generations by oral retellings. As the story was passed by word of mouth, it may have changed as various cultures learned the story. This may explain why some parts of the legend differ. Through careful **examination** of similar elements in these legends, however, certain facts about an ancient **catastrophic** flood may be revealed.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 439 words

1 *flood*: an overflow of water that destroys things

4 *immediate*: next in line; direct

5 *along with*: together with; including

6 *recede*: to go down; to diminish

6 *repopulate*: to increase the number of people again

16 *Celtic*: of ancient people from Europe whose modern relatives now live in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales

22 *striking*: surprising and very easy to notice

30 *examination*: study

32 *catastrophic*: terrible, like a great disaster



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## Reading Comprehension

### Choose the best answer.

**1.** What is the main idea of the reading?

a. Many cultures have stories about a flood.
b. A flood killed many people.
c. The legend of the flood is not true.
d. Floods can be very dangerous.

**2.** Which is true about the oldest legend of the flood?

a. Boats were not described in it.
b. It came from South America.
c. It was written in stone.
d. People learned it by listening.

**3.** What is similar about the Roman legend and some American Indian legends?

a. Fish spoke to people.
b. Only one person survived.
c. People climbed mountains.
d. The flood lasted one year.

**4.** What does the large number of flood legends seem to indicate?

a. People traveled around the world.
b. The flood really happened.
c. The legend was popular.
d. Long ago, everyone spoke one language.

**5.** What does the phrase "passed by word of mouth" mean?

a. Said with careful thought
b. Spoken very loudly
c. Taught through speaking
d. Told for entertainment

## Idiomatic Expressions

### Find these idioms in the reading.

- **set about** [ to start to do ]
  The teacher set about cleaning the room after the students left.
- **at some point** [ at or during some unspecified time ]
  We don't have to go now, but at some point we should go to the store.
- **pass down** [ to give to a younger generation ]
  Legends say the king passed down a magic sword to his eldest son.

### Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

**1.** First, you should establish a clear goal and then _____ trying to reach it.

**2.** My great-grandmother's recipes have been _____ for generations.

**3.** You'll have to learn how to use the new computer program _____.


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## Summary

**Read the sentences from the reading passage. Paraphrase the sentences to create a summary of the passage.**

a. Perhaps you have heard about a man named Noah, who built a huge boat to escape the flood.

b. Only Noah's immediate family, including his wife, three sons, and his sons' wives, survived the flood, along with all of the animals on his boat.

**1.** a + b: In the legend of Noah, _____
_____.

c. In a Hindu legend of the flood, a fish warned a man about the flood, and only the man was saved.

d. Then the gods made a woman for the man, and the man and woman had many children.

**2.** c + d: In a Hindu legend, _____
_____.

e. There are also Incan, Mayan, and Native American legends about a great flood.

f. In each of these legends, a few people live through the flood by climbing mountains or by constructing boats.

**3.** e + f: In Incan, Mayan, and Native American legends of the flood, _____
_____.



## Listening

### Recalling the Details

Track 24

**Listen to the dialog. Check True or False for each sentence.**

| | True | False |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** The man remembers how many days it rained. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** The man could not remember what kind of bird brought the branch to Noah. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **3.** The woman remembered the meaning of the rainbow. | ☐ | ☐ |



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## Discussion

### Discuss the following questions.

1. What legend of a great flood have you heard? Tell the story briefly.
2. Do you know other legends that also appear in other cultures? If yes, which ones?
3. Where do you think these legends originally came from?

## Grammar

### *As, Before, After,* or *Until*

Conjunctions like *as, before, after,* or *until* are used to introduce an adverbial clause of time.

*The flood happened long (before / ago) humans could write, so the story of the flood could only be passed down through generations by oral retellings.*
*As the story was passed by word of mouth, it may have changed (as / according to) various cultures learned the story.*

## Writing

### Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

### A Famous Legend

**(1)** What is the title of a famous legend? **(2)** Who are the main characters in the legend? **(3)** What happens in the legend? **(4)** How does the legend end? **(5)** What can people learn from this legend?

**Example**

A famous legend in my country is the legend of Sleepy Hollow. It is about a schoolteacher and a ghost. The schoolteacher does not believe the legend of the ghost until he meets the ghost. In the end, the teacher mysteriously disappears. The lesson people can learn from this story is to believe in legends.


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## Vocabulary and Idiom Review

### A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

**1.** There is _____ on your hand! Are you hurt?
a. blood b. culture c. Earth d. human

**2.** Have you heard the _____ about the monster living in these woods?
a. boat b. glacier c. legend d. mountain

**3.** My grandmother _____ two wars and a terrible earthquake.
a. died of b. disagreed with c. lived through d. was made from

**4.** Some plants and animals are able to _____ even in the hottest desert.
a. construct b. kill c. pass d. survive

**5.** She _____ at school to ask her teacher about her homework.
a. believed b. climbed c. happened d. remained

**6.** All of the facts seem to _____ his brother as the robber.
a. differ on b. hear about c. point to d. save from

**7.** Every year, there is a _____ in this valley from the snow melting in the mountains.
a. body b. flood c. giant d. mouth

### B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

**8.** She asked about the _____ between the two cameras.
a. difference b. differ c. different

**9.** It took the company only three weeks to _____ the house.
a. construction b. construct c. constructed

**10.** The actual results of the experiment did not match the _____ results.
a. speculation b. speculate c. speculated



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