

FLOODING CAUSES HAVOC IN NORTHERN ENGLAND!

Reported by Laura Baggley



A church yard flooded in Appleby, Cumbria, one of the **worst** hit places by Storm Desmond.

This past weekend has seen **county** wide damage across **Cumbria** in the north of England. After 14 inches of rain fell in just 24 hours thanks to Storm Desmond, many homes and **businesses** have been destroyed due to rising water as rivers have burst their banks.

43,000 homes are now without power as the flood water **continues** to rise. **Despite** the warnings from the **Met Office**, and **flood defences** already in place, the whole county has seen **destruction** in the run up to Christmas.

Fire fighters and mountain rescue teams are working around the clock to rescue people from their homes. To do this they are using boats to travel up the flooded streets. The army and fire fighters from different areas are travelling to Cumbria to help the people in need. There are reports of one person falling into the river in Kendal, **although** these reports are still **unconfirmed**.

When asked about the flooding in her town, Mrs French, 34, said, "It's just horrible. Everything downstairs in my house is **ruined**. I have no water or electricity on in the house and it's cold. I've been trying to live upstairs in my bedroom but it's no good. I am going to stay with friends across town until the water goes down." Mrs French was very upset talking about moving out of her house.

A neighbour a few doors down also came to talk to us. Joe Gibson, 82, said "This is the worst flooding I have seen here and I have lived here all my life! Lots of my neighbours have been rescued until the water goes down and the clean up can begin." Mr Gibson was **offered** to be rescued by the mountain rescue and their boat but he **refused**, telling them he was living upstairs in his home and needed no help.

It wasn't just people in towns that needed rescuing. The most hard-hit area was in Appleby, Cumbria. Appleby is a small town in a **rural** area with many **surrounding**



The fire service and local mountain rescue team carry out an **elderly** woman from her flooded home.

villages and farms. Over the weekend, many animals and **livestock** have had to be rescued by farmers, with help from the **community**. Farmer Dave Frank, from **nearby** Colby, spent the weekend **wading** through the river water to rescue each and every one of his sheep after they were cut off by the local rivers.

“I have been watching the waters rise over the last few days and when it got to Saturday, I decided that my sheep would be in danger where they were. I got some help from the local people and had to carry some of the sheep to safety. It’s my **livelihood**, I can’t let anything happen to my sheep,” said Mr Frank angrily.



The Mountain Rescue and Fire Service don’t just rescue people. Here they are helping a farmer rescue his sheep near Appleby.

In some areas across Cumbria, the water levels are lowering and the **vast** clean up has already **begun**.

Many people have already returned to their homes to see the damage Storm Desmond has left behind. Many people have found nothing left in their homes, with all their **belongings** destroyed. It looks like it could take up to a year to get some people back into their homes safely.



Cars down a main street in Cockermouth were left **abandoned** as the river rushed through the town.

When asked about the floods in Cumbria, **Prime Minister** David Cameron said, “It’s an **absolutely** horrific thing to happen, and for many of these people it’s not the first time that it’s happened.” He also thanked the emergency services for their work.

It wasn’t just homes, farms and towns destroyed by Storm Desmond. Many roads and bridges have been damaged and some even washed away. This means that there is a lot more work to be done when the clean up begins.



A road in Cumbria that has been washed away.

The Prime Minister is due to visit the areas most **affected** to offer help, see the damage and **pledge** money to help the areas **recover** from Storm Desmond.

Flooding Causes Havoc! – Follow-Up Work

Where does the story in the newspaper article take place?

Name three features of newspaper articles that this text has.

What is the article about?

What do you think will happen next for the people of Cumbria?

Why does the headline say “Flooding causes havoc...”?

How did the people who were interviewed feel? Explain your answer.

Can you find any powerful verbs? Why were they used?

How does the author indicate speech?

Name the three people who were interviewed in the article?

Look at the picture and caption below. Why has the author used these in the article? What effect does it have on the reader?



Cars down a main street in Cockermouth were left abandoned as the river rushed through the town.

Flooding Causes Havoc! – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of the words.

havoc _____

worst _____

county _____

Cumbria _____

businesses _____

continues _____

despite _____

Met Office _____

flood defences _____

destruction _____

although _____

unconfirmed _____

ruined _____

offered _____

refused _____

rural _____

surrounding _____

livestock _____

nearby _____

community _____

wading _____

livelihood _____

vast _____

begun _____

belongings _____

abandoned _____

Prime Minister _____

absolutely _____

affected _____

pledge _____

recover _____

elderly _____

Flooding Causes Havoc! – Vocab 2

Rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for the highlighted words.

- The Prime Minister is due to visit the area most affected to offer help, see the damage and **pledge** money to help the area recover from Storm Desmond.
-
-

- Appleby is a small town in a **rural** area with many surrounding villages and farms.
-
-

Put each of the words from the box into the correct sentence.

rural

offered

elderly

Cumbria

continues

- This past weekend has seen county wide damage across _____ in the north of England.
- Mr Gibson was _____ to be rescued by the mountain rescue and their boat but he refused.
- Appleby is a small town in a _____ area with many surrounding villages and farms.
- 43,000 homes are now without power as the flood water _____ to rise.
- The fire service and local mountain rescue team carry out an _____ woman from her flooded home.

Flooding Causes Havoc! – Oral Teacher Questions

Where does the story in the newspaper article take place? **Cumbria, Northern England.**

Name three features of newspaper articles that this text has. **Date, price, headline, paragraphs, columns, pictures and captions, quotes from observers. Present or past tense.**

What is the article about? **Flooding across Cumbria in the north of England. The article talks about what happened and what people are doing now.**

What do you think will happen next for the people of Cumbria? **Personal response. Pupils may refer to the end of the article and talk about the Prime Minister visiting and helping with funding for the area.**

Why does the headline say “Flooding causes havoc...”? **Directly linked to the article. The word havoc is used to try and encourage people to read the article. It is meant to sound dramatic.**

How did the people who were interviewed feel? Explain your answer. **It said in the article that Mrs Smith was upset. The article said that Mr Frank was angry and Joe Gibson did not want to leave his home.**

Can you find any powerful verbs? Why were they used? **Rising, ruined, destroying, abandoned, refused, rescued, wading. They are used to cause effect and drama.**

How does the author indicate speech? **By using speech marks and using the word ‘said’.**

Name the three people who were interviewed in the article? **Mrs Smith, Joe Gibson and Mr Frank.**

Look at the picture and caption below. Why has the author used these in the article? What effect does it have on the reader? **The picture looks like anyone’s street. It is used to shock the reader into caring about the problem. The picture is meant to represent any street in the UK.**



Cars down a main street in Cockermouth were left abandoned as the river rushed through the town.

Flooding Causes Havoc! – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of the words.

havoc – **widespread destruction or damage**

worst – **most serious**

county – **the UK is made up of counties, a county is an area with its own council**

Cumbria – **a county in the north west of England famous for its lakes and fells**

businesses – **a business is a firm that makes money by making or providing something**

continues – **to keep on**

despite – **even though**

Met Office – **national weather service that is funded by the Government**

flood defences – **structure that has been built to stop flooding of an area**

destruction – **damage, devastation**

although – **however, but**

unconfirmed – **not known if it is true at this time**

ruined – **destroyed, damaged**

offered – **to give or provide something or a service**

refused – **show that they are not willing to do something**

rural – **countryside area**

surrounding – all around

livestock – farm animals

nearby – near to

community – the people around you in the local area

wading – walk slowly through water

livelihood – the way people make money in order to live

vast – huge, a lot

begun – already started

belongings – things that belong to you that you own

abandoned – left in a hurry

Prime Minister – the head of the Government of Great Britain

absolutely – totally or completely

affected – influenced, touched, caused by something else

pledge – a promise, often of money

recover – get back to normal

elderly – of age, an older person

Flooding Causes Havoc! – Vocab 2

Rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for the highlighted words.

- The Prime Minister is due to visit the area most affected to offer help, see the damage and **pledge** money to help the area recover from Storm Desmond.

The Prime Minister is due to visit the area most affected to offer help, see the damage and **promise/vow/commit** money to help the area recover from Storm Desmond.

- Appleby is a small town in a **rural** area with many surrounding villages and farms.

Appleby is a small town in a **country/countryside** area with many surrounding villages and farms.

Put each of the words from the box into the correct sentence.

rural

offered

elderly

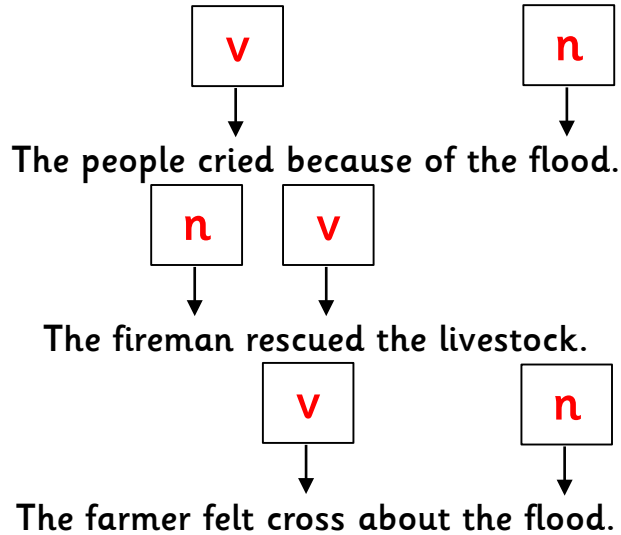
Cumbria

continues

- This past weekend has seen county wide damage across **Cumbria** in the north of England.
- Mr Gibson was **offered** to be rescued by the mountain rescue and their boat but he refused.
- Appleby is a small town in a **rural** area with many surrounding villages and farms.
- 43,000 homes are now without power as the flood water **continues** to rise.
- The fire service and local mountain rescue team carry out an **elderly** woman from her flooded home.

Flooding Causes Havoc! – SPAG

Write v for verb and n for noun in the boxes below to show if the word is a verb or a noun.



Each sentence below has a missing word. Select the most appropriate one from the box.

The Mountain Rescue **helped/carried** the people.

The elderly man **refused** the help.

The sheep were **carried/helped** by the farmer.

The homes were completely **damaged/flooded** with water.

Mrs Smith **felt** sad about **leaving** her home.

The Prime Minister is going to **visit** the area.

The people cannot **return** to their homes yet.

The flood defences did not **stop** the water.

The roads and bridges were **damaged** by the floods.

refused
carried
damaged
helped
flooded
return
leaving
stop
felt
visit