



When a Storm Comes

by Kate McGough

Overview

Use this book to help children understand what soil erosion is and how people can cause it and prevent it.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 172 words*

High Frequency Words
away, comes, look, stop, this, when

Content Words
field, trees, bushes, grass, storm, wind, soil, erosion, crops, rain, Earth

Decoding Skills

- **Initial Consonant Blends:** st, bl, cl, pl, gr (storm, stop, blow, clearing, plant, place, grass, grow)

- **Vowel Digraphs:** ow (blow, grow)

- **Compound Words:** sometimes, without

**Comprehension/
Thinking Skills**

- Determining cause and effect
- Drawing conclusions
- Using illustrations to understand text

**Writing/Speaking
and Listening**

- Writing true statements about soil erosion
- Discussing erosion experiment results
- Sharing information about farms and soil

Observe/Assess

See Using Retellings in the Assessment Handbook.

Science Focus

**Content and
Thinking Skills**

- Understanding that soil covers Earth's surface
- Understanding that erosion is caused by wind and rain
- Learning that humans cause some erosion
- Understanding that soil erosion can be halted or slowed down by planting trees, grass, and bushes

Background Information

The text encourages children to understand the changing nature of the Earth's surface. The process of soil erosion is a natural phenomenon, which is sometimes very slow but can occur quickly as a result of human influence. Children will learn that people can take steps to prevent this from happening. Trees, bushes, and grass hold moisture in the soil and keep the soil from

being washed away by rain or blown away by the wind.

**Correlation to
National Standards**

Earth Science

- Changes in the Earth and Sky

**Science in Personal and
Social Perspectives**

See Standards Chart on page 204.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children whether they have been to a farm. Record some of the things they saw. Ask:

Why do the farmers need soil?

What types of crops can farmers grow?

What do the fields look like?

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Introduce the book. Talk about storms and their effects.

Encourage children to think about damage to the land.

Pages 2–5

Focus on the illustration of barren land and the effect of the storm. Focus on the word *erosion*. Ask:

What has happened to these fields?

What will happen when a storm comes?

What type of weather does a storm often bring?

Pages 6–10

Discuss reasons why people clear the land. Ask:

What is the farmer growing?

What is missing in the field?

What will happen when a storm comes?

Pages 11–12

Why are there bushes and plants in the field?

How do you think the trees and bushes keep the soil from blowing away?

Respond

- Have children think of words that rhyme with *blow/grow*. Ask children to find words in the text that begin with the blends *st*, *bl*, *cl*, *pl*, and *gr*.
- Compound words are formed when two words are joined together to make another word. Together, find the compound words in the text.



Comprehension

Activity Master, page 184

Check children's understanding by asking them to give *yes* or *no* answers to the statements on the Activity Master, page 184.



Meeting

Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 198–203.

Science Focus

Science Concept

Soil erosion happens when soil is blown or washed away by wind and rain. People can prevent erosion by planting trees, grass, and bushes to hold the soil in place.

Activities

Compare and Contrast

Have children draw two pictures: one showing eroded land and one with the land intact. Ask children to describe differences in the two landscapes.

Further Research

Use a variety of magazines, books, and CD-ROMs to find examples of erosion. Cut or copy to make a class collage.

Experiment

Prepare two trays of soil: one containing just a layer of soil and the second with some small plants. Pour water onto the surfaces and record how fast the water soaks in. Then place the trays outside to expose the soil to different weather conditions. Children can record any erosion that occurs.

Storm Videos

If possible, find videos that show the effects of different types of extreme weather: hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.



Preventing Erosion

Activity Master, page 185

Have children use the Activity Master, page 185, to show how erosion can be prevented. Children can draw pictures of trees and bushes to show how farmers can stop erosion.

When a Storm Comes

Read the sentences and answer *yes* or *no* for each statement below.

1. When a storm comes, the rain can wash the soil away. _____

2. Trees and bushes cause the soil to blow away. _____

3. Erosion happens when the rain and wind move the soil to another place. _____

4. Sometimes people do things to cause erosion. _____

5. Crops will grow without soil. _____

6. It's a good idea to leave some bushes and trees in a field. _____

Write the *no* statements as *yes* statements on a separate piece of paper.

Name _____

When a Storm Comes

Pretend you are a farmer. How would you stop erosion on your farm? Draw a picture to show what you would do. Write about your picture.
