

Too Much Water

People need air, fire, and water to live. Yet these same elements can destroy life. Of these elements, water may be the most dangerous.

Many cultures have legends of great floods that covered the land. Since civilizations developed close to water, stories of flooding came naturally. Lakes and rivers do not flood any more often in our century than they did in the past. Today, however, floods seem to cause much more damage. This is because many more buildings are close to water. For example, people love to live on the beach. Yet they may suffer when a hurricane hits.

Many different weather conditions cause floods. Spring rain will quickly melt mountain snow causing it to race down into the valley. A raging rainstorm causes rivers to overflow. The high winds of a hurricane blow ocean water inland. Sudden storms cause flash floods in deserts where the water cannot sink into the ground. A volcanic eruption may also begin a flood. That is because the energy from the eruption causes huge waves to crash over nearby towns.

1. Why is the passage titled “Too Much Water”?
2. Name two conditions that cause floods.