Storm Safety Signals

Use weather information to make safer choices.

E.4.9C.5 "Obtain and communicate information about severe weather phenomena (e.g., thunderstorms, hurricanes, or tornadoes) to explain steps humans can take to reduce the impact of severe weather events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one weather danger and circle one action that reduces it, then write the same number (1, 2, or 3) beside the matching danger and action.

Three Storms, Three Plans

1. On Saturday, Maya helps set up a neighborhood fair. A weather alert warns of a thunderstorm. Thunder means lightning is close enough to be dangerous, even when rain has not started. Maya moves everyone into the community center instead of under the tall trees. Inside, they stay away from windows and do not use sinks because lightning can travel through pipes. They wait 30 minutes after the last thunder before going outside.

2. The next week, a tornado warning sounds while Maya is at school. A warning means a tornado has been seen or detected by weather radar. Tornadoes can form quickly, so there may be little time to leave the area. Her class goes to a small room on the lowest floor, away from windows. Students crouch and cover their heads with their arms to protect themselves from flying debris.

3. Months later, Maya visits her aunt near the coast as a hurricane approaches. Forecasters can track hurricanes before they reach land. Her aunt listens for official orders and leaves early when told to evacuate. They take water, medicine, and a pet carrier, then travel inland on an approved route. Storm surge can flood coastal roads, and moving floodwater can carry a car away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Maya move people indoors before the rain starts?

2. How do the room and the students' actions each help protect them during the tornado warning?

3. Why does Maya's aunt leave early on an approved route when she is told to evacuate?

4. Why can Maya's aunt travel inland for the hurricane, while Maya's class takes shelter at school for the tornado?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

During a hurricane evacuation, a family finds its usual road flooded. Write a three-sentence message telling them what to avoid, how to find a safer route, and why that plan reduces danger.

ANSWER KEY

Storm Safety Signals

GRADE 4 · E.4.9C.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one weather danger and circle one action that reduces it, then write the same number (1, 2, or 3) beside the matching danger and action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Maya move people indoors before the rain starts?	**Thunder means lightning is close enough to be dangerous, even before rain starts. Indoors is safer than waiting under trees.**
2	How do the room and the students' actions each help protect them during the tornado warning?	**The room is on the lowest floor and away from windows. Crouching and covering their heads helps protect students from flying debris.**
3	Why does Maya's aunt leave early on an approved route when she is told to evacuate?	**Hurricanes can be tracked before they arrive. Leaving early on an approved route helps her avoid coastal roads that storm surge may flood.**
4	Why can Maya's aunt travel inland for the hurricane, while Maya's class takes shelter at school for the tornado?	**Forecasters can track a hurricane before it reaches land, giving people time to leave. Tornadoes can form quickly, so the class shelters in a safer room.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Do not drive onto the flooded road. Check official updates for another approved route inland. Moving floodwater can carry a car away, so taking a safe route helps your family avoid that danger.

Accept any correctly matched danger and protective action in each paragraph for Part 1. For Part 3, look for a warning against driving through floodwater, a way to find an official route, and an explanation of the danger.