

Resource sheet 1: Why did Mrs. McCormack's tea-rooms disappear down the river on August 18th?

1. Most of the local farmers have ploughed up their grass meadows next to the river, and now grow crops on the floodplain.	2. This summer has been one of the worst on record, there have been several periods of prolonged rainfall, the ground is very saturated.
3. Paul Appleton, the local forester, will BE busy next year, he has to plant thousands of new trees to replace those he harvested earlier in the year.	4. Mrs. McCormacks' shop is located in a small scenic village that lies at the confluence of two of the areas' main rivers.
5. Scientists believe we are beginning to see the results of global warming.	6. More tourists arrived in the village this year thanks to the new roads that have been built.
7. Mrs. McCormack's customers loved the view offered by her tea-room's waterfront location.	8. The village has expanded rapidly in the last few years, several new property developments have been built.
9. On 16 th August the Environment Agency issued a severe weather warning.	10. Flood insurance for the properties in the village is extremely expensive.
11. The BBC showed images of the flood devastation on the morning of the 19 th August.	12. The flood damage has been estimated at £10 million.
13. The village bridge was made of several arches, in times of high water this could get blocked with material.	14. The village rugby team now played on a ground that in the past was marshland.
15. The two river valleys are formed on a layer of thick rock.	16. The sluice gate (which formed part of a basic flood alleviation scheme) was not properly maintained, sometimes it could get jammed.
17. Mrs. McCormack's son Ben enjoyed trekking up the slopes of the steep river valleys.	18. The local council designated less money to flood protection every year, "what was the point there hadn't been a flood for 60 years.
19. The river embankments were gradually feeling the effects of all the tourist activity along the river.	20. Two years ago local fisherman, concerned about the destruction of the river, launched a successful campaign to stop the regular dredging of the river.
21. On the 17 th August villagers were issued with sandbags.	22. In the early part of the evening of 18 th August, Mrs. McCormack was airlifted by helicopter to safety.
23. The emergency pumps arrive on the morning of 18 th August, but it's too late, they just aren't powerful enough.	24. At the height of the floods boulders the size of cars were being washed down the river.
25. The clean up operation will take weeks and the village will take over 18 months to rebuild.	26. Before the rivers course was altered, it used to meander slowly across the floodplain.
27. Only those buildings above the floodplain remained undamaged.	28. Mrs McCormack had to take out a loan to finance the opening of her tea-rooms.
29. Peat from the surrounding moors has been removed.	30. Nobody expected the storm to be quite so severe.