



Teacher's Notes: Mudslide in California

General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students working on those skills. There is something for everyone.

Addressing problem solving: Throughout the e-book, help students identify the problems that are involved and choice making opportunities throughout the article.

Page 1: How long ago was January 10th? Heavy rain is when it rains hard. Lots of rain is coming down. Not just a little bit. What is heavy rain? Point to CA. Is CA a state? Which state do you live in? What is mud? It is dirt that is wet. What is a mudslide? It is mud that is moving like a river. How long ago did this happen?

Page 2: Do you know why the mudslide happened? It's because of wildfires in October. There were big fires and a lot of the forest got burned. Usually when it rains the trees and plants stop the rain from flowing. Point to the fire, trees. When was October?

Page 3: There was a lot of rain in Montecito, CA in the beginning of January. They had not had rain in a long time. But what happened is that when it did rain, there were not enough plants. The water started to make mud. That mud turned into a river. Point to the dead forest that was burned in the wildfires in October. When was the wildfire? Look at the water flowing. That is how the mudslide started. Water was running in the woods and was carrying a lot of mud in it. Point to the water flowing. What happened

Page 4: The rain just kept pouring down. It was a heavy rain. More and more mud was in the water. It started to flow down into neighborhoods and roads! There were rocks in the mud and water too. Smaller rocks and big boulders. Point at the boulder. Is it big? Point at the rocks. What is a mudslide? What was flowing in the mudslide?

Page 5: That mudslide in Montecito turned into a big problem!! Look at the picture. Those houses are filled with mud. The mudslide moved some of those houses and pushed them down the road! It was dangerous. Point to the houses covered in mud. Look at that car. This car was pushed out of the neighborhood by the mudslide. It is tipped over. Oh no. Point to the car that is tipped over. The houses in Montecito that have mud all around them.

Page 6: This is unbelievable! The mud and rocks and boulder went all the way down to the highway. The highway was filled with mud. It took a long time for the people in CA to get that mud off the road so that people could drive on it again. Point to the road. Can anyone drive on that? Why not? What is mud?

Page 7: When people in Montecito saw that there was a mudslide, they all needed to hurry up and get out of their houses and get out of Montecito before the mudslide hit their neighborhood. Almost everyone left. Some people didn't leave and stayed there. It was not safe. They all needed to get out of Montecito.

Page 8: Almost everyone left, but not everyone got out. There are at least 21 people who died because of the mudslide. They either were in their house and the mud pushed their house and they got hurt and died, or they were in their car and it got pushed by the mudslide and they died. It's too bad.

Page 9: Finally the weather got better. Police are still trying to find out if there are more people who died from the mudslide. They have dogs that are smelling around to see if they can find the people.