



Be Disaster Safe K-2

At School

LESSON PLAN 8

Build a Kit

Young children find comfort in knowing they have stored items they will need in case of emergency.

Key Terms and Concepts

comfort
emergency

needs
perishable

prepare
supplies

Purpose

To help the students prepare for an emergency at school and see that the school is ready, too

Objectives

The students will—

- Come to a consensus on a class list of items to be included in their individual comfort kits.
- Using *Student Comfort Kit*, take home the class list of items with a bag and fill and return their individual comfort kits. (Home Connection)
- Draw and label pictures of themselves using the items in their comfort kits and explaining how they might feel during an emergency.
- Determine how to distribute within the community the comfort kits that are not used by the end of the year. (Linking Across the Curriculum)
- List items to be placed in a classroom emergency kit, based on specific criteria.
- Help pack and store emergency items for their classroom, discussing why each item is necessary.
- Write stories to illustrate how their classroom emergency kit might be used to make an emergency situation better.

Activities

“Comfort Kits”

“Classroom Emergency Kit”



Visit the American Red Cross Web site
at www.redcross.org/disaster/masters



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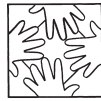
LESSON PLAN 8 Build a Kit

Materials

- Chalkboard and chalk or chart paper and markers
- One-gallon bags with a zip closure, 1 per student
- *Student Comfort Kit*, 1 per student



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"Comfort Kits"

SET UP 10 minutes CONDUCT 30 minutes, plus Home Connection

Social Studies: Personal Responsibility; Science: Health

TEACHING NOTE The purpose of storing individual kits is that each student will have items from home to provide comfort during an emergency. In low-income areas, the PTA or other organizations might be able to purchase the supplies in bulk to be assembled by students in the classroom.

1. Talk to the students about what they might want to have at school in the event an emergency kept them at school longer than normal. What items might make them feel better?
2. After a brief discussion, tell the students the restrictions—items must fit inside a one-gallon plastic bag and will be stored in the classroom for the school year (no tuna sandwiches!). Now, write students' suggestions on the chalkboard or on chart paper, making sure the items meet the criteria.
3. Go through the class list. Could all the items fit into the plastic bag? Which items could be eliminated? Which items are most necessary? Most comforting? Work with the class until they come to a consensus.

TEACHING NOTE The standard items many schools include in comfort kits are—

- Space blanket or large plastic trash bag for warmth and protection from wind and rain
- Snack food such as granola bars, dried fruit and nuts
- One or two boxes or small plastic bottles of juice or water
- Family photograph
- Light stick
- Small toy

4. After agreeing on a list, complete *Student Comfort Kit* and photocopy it for the class. Older students can copy the list on the activity sheet themselves.



Home Connection

Send a one-gallon plastic bag, along with the completed *Student Comfort Kit*, home with each student. As the kits are returned, mark off each student's name.

TEACHING NOTE It may be necessary to assist some students, if the family is unable to provide the needed items. The PTA might help.



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Wrap-Up

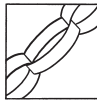
Store the individual kits in a large storage box. Work with the students to find a suitable storage spot—away from heat, light and insects and in a secure but accessible place. Remind the students that there is a good chance the supplies will not be needed, but that these are items that will be helpful in almost any emergency.

TEACHING NOTE Some schools choose to store the comfort kits from all classrooms together in one location.



Ask the students to draw pictures of themselves using the items in their comfort kits. Have them label the items and describe how having the comfort kits might make them feel in an emergency.

Post the pictures on a bulletin board in a common area, encouraging other classrooms to make individual comfort kits as well.



Linking Across the Curriculum

Social Studies: Personal Responsibility and Community

Once the comfort kits are completed and stored, talk with students about possible ways to use the kits if they are not needed by the end of the year. Discuss ways the items might help others. Let the students decide as a class whether to take home the kits or remove personal photographs or memorabilia and donate the bags to a homeless shelter or other institution.

Mark a date on the calendar, near the end of the school year, to dispose of the kits in the agreed-upon manner.

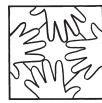


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LESSON PLAN 8 Build a Kit

Materials

- Chalkboard and chalk or chart paper and markers
- Classroom emergency kit supplies



"Classroom Emergency Kit"

SET UP 5 minutes **CONDUCT** 20 minutes, plus time to pack and store the kit

Social Studies: Community; Science: Health; Language Arts: Writing

1. Now that the students have individual emergency supplies, talk about what the whole class might need in case of an emergency.
2. Write the students' ideas on the chalkboard. Make sure students consider the criteria discussed earlier—easy to store and nonperishable.

TEACHING NOTE Classroom emergency supplies are often stored in backpacks or buckets. Following are some basic items many schools include in classroom kits.

- Class roster or emergency contact cards
- Copy of school emergency procedures
- First aid instructions and first aid supplies
- Bottled water (for drinking purposes only, the recommended amount is one half-gallon [2 liters] per person per day)
- Food
- Bucket and plastic bags (to be used if toilets are not accessible)
- Toilet paper
- Hand wipes or antibacterial hand cleaner
- Duct tape and heavy plastic sheeting to cover doors, windows and air vents
- Push broom
- Work gloves for adults
- Tissues
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Space blankets, one per student in cold climates, if not included in comfort kits
- Large tarp or several large trash bags
- Age-specific activities for students

3. Work with school officials to gather the items for your classroom. Ask the students to help pack the supplies, discussing the use of each item and why it might be needed. Store the water apart from the other supplies because occasionally bottles leak.
4. Guide the students to set up a calendar to check the supplies every few months to ensure that batteries work, water bottles are not leaking and perishable supplies are replaced according to marked expiration dates.



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Wrap-Up

Ask younger students to dictate a story about a fictitious emergency situation and the ways they used the items in their classroom emergency kit.

Older students may write and illustrate their own stories about how the classroom emergency kit made a fictitious emergency situation better for everyone.



Student Comfort Kit

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Name _____

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our class is working on emergency preparedness planning. This project calls for each student to bring in an individual Comfort Kit with items packed in the one-gallon plastic bag provided. We will store these kits at school to be used in case of an emergency. Items must not be perishable. Please assist your child in placing the following items in the bag:

Note: It is important that the bags be similar in contents, so please do not add items not listed here. If you do not wish to send items in, please return this list with the bag. Thank you.

