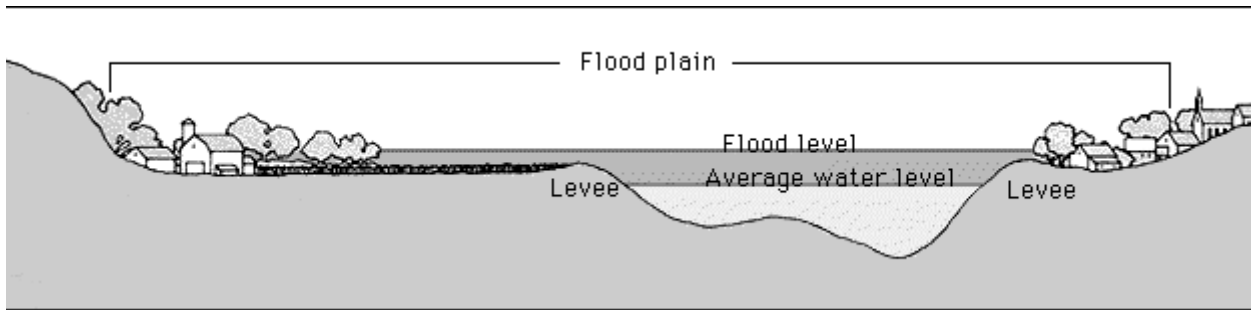


Earth Science Floods



When dry land is covered by water, we call it a flood. Floods are very dangerous. If they are very bad, homes can be destroyed, and people can die. Floods can happen from three different sources;¹ an ocean, a river or a lake. Floods begin when too much water is flowing in an area that cannot support it. Heavy rain, snow and ice all cause floods. In the picture above, you can see that the flood level rises above the banks of the river. At first, it covers land where no people live, but as it gets higher, it can affect land where people reside.² Homes and cars can be washed away, and people can drown.

There are several ways to protect our land and people from floods. Dams keep water from rushing downstream. Channels filter³ the water out to sea in safe amounts. Dikes, flood wall and levees,⁴ when built; help keep water off the land. We also have systems for warning people about floods that are coming. This way, less people and property are affected.

¹ **sources** – where something comes from

² **reside** – to live in a certain place

³ **filter** – to pass slowly through

⁴ **levees** – a bank built along a river to keep it from flooding