

Lesson 1: Katrina Strikes

Part 3: Extension Activities

Beyond Personal Finance: Using *Katrina's Classroom* Videos across Disciplines

While the lesson plans of *Katrina's Classroom: Financial Lessons from a Hurricane* deal with personal finance and emergency preparedness, the videos from the curriculum can be used for much more. They can serve as conversation starters or to give context to lesson plans on a variety of topics or activities. Some of these topics could include social issues, goal setting, family dynamics, friendships, weather patterns, urban planning, government relief spending, rebuilding communities, rebuilding costs, population shifts, employment shifts, and more.

The concepts can also provide a backdrop for activities in math, statistics, creative writing, debate, fine art, science, geography, family consumer science, and current events—to name a few.

The FEMA disasters website (www.fema.gov/disasters) provides a wealth of information for similar activities. It has searchable, downloadable data and narrative reports of all federally declared states of emergency.

Data can be pulled for every state on 26 different types of disasters (including weather, terrorism, chemical, viral, fire, flood, and industrial) and four disaster declaration types (major, emergency, fire management, and fire suppression). While Hurricane Katrina was a significant event in 2005 that continues to have implications today, disasters of one type or another happen everywhere and all the time. A suggestion for developing a lesson based on similar situations in your state or region follows.

Beyond Personal Finance: Activity Suggestions

FEMA data (www.fema.gov/disasters) show that the states of the Sixth Federal Reserve District—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee —have had 55 major disaster declarations *since* Hurricane Katrina. The chart breaks the numbers of “Major Disaster Declarations” out by state.

	LA	MS	AL	GA	TN	FL
Flooding	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hurricane	3	1	1	0	0	2
Severe Storms and Tornadoes	1	1	1	2	1	1
Severe Storms and Flooding	1	1	2	2	2	0
Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Winds, Flooding	1	4	6	2	10	3
Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tropical Storm	1	0	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	8	8	11	6	14	8

Use the data in the chart above (or similar data for your state or region) and have your students do the following tasks.

- Map, chart, or graph the disaster declarations by type, state, and year (not shown here but available on the FEMA site).
 - Common Core Connection: English Language Arts in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects; Writing Standards 6–12: Text Types and Purposes; Reading Standards 6–12: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Calculate ratios of incidence of disasters between states or between disaster types.
 - Common Core Connection: High School Mathematics—Number and Quantity
- Research historical weather trends and make a prediction about weather activity in each state for the next year. Describe how you arrived at your prediction.

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- Common Core Connection: High School Mathematics—Statistics and Probability
4. Research and identify the agricultural industries in each state. Discuss or write about the economic impact of the weather disasters of the last seven years (or in any selected year) on these industries.
- Common Core Connection: English Language Arts in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects; Writing Standards 6–12: Research to Build and Present Knowledge
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This chart activity is just one example of how you can use the videos of *Katrina's Classroom* to frame the study of topics in subjects beyond personal finance.

Katrina's Classroom was developed by a team of senior economic and financial education specialists at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

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For additional classroom resources and professional development opportunities, please visit www.frbatlanta.org/education