



# Assignment

## Making an Inference from Informational Text

**Topic: Mega-Storms**

### Your Assignment:

*Read the article below. What inference can be made about global warming and Mega-Storms? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.*

### The Other Big One

Californians may need to prepare for The Big One. The Big One usually refers to an earthquake, but scientists and engineers say that there could be The Other Big One at any time, as well.

#### **What is The Other Big One?**

It is what is called a Mega-Storm. It's a huge rain storm that lasts for weeks and weeks. There has not been a Mega-Storm in California in more than 150 years. In the scientists' opinion, California is overdue for a Mega-Storm.

#### **What would happen as a result of The Other Big One?**

The damage from a Mega-Storm would be extraordinary. It would cause three times as much destruction as an earthquake running up and down the San Andreas Fault. It is estimated that it would cause at least 725 billion dollars worth of damage. Scientists say that the enormous amount of rain would cause lakes to form where they currently don't exist. The dams (structures that hold back water) would potentially burst from the pressure, and cities and towns would be taken over by water. Scientists predict that some cities would be under 20 feet of water. More than a million people could lose their homes due to flooding.

## What can people do about The Other Big One?

Scientists say that Mega-Storms are a direct result of the change in climate. People's habits are partly responsible for the rise in Earth's temperatures. Things like aerosol hairspray negatively affect the atmosphere. The subsequent (resulting) temperature changes lead to extremely dry periods of time and extremely wet periods of time. California recently exited a five year long drought (a period of time with little to no rain). The Other Big One would be the opposite extreme.

Preparations for The Other Big One are already underway. Engineers are working to strengthen the dams that hold back the water. The dams suffer damage due to global warming. The structures are not designed to withstand the force and pressure of the amount of rain that comes in a Mega-Storm, and the already weakened structures could burst. The work on the most significant dam in the Los Angeles area, the Whittier Narrows Dam, is expected to be finished in 2026.

## Stem Starters:

*You may want to consider starting your response using one of these stems. You do not have to do so, but they are here to help you if you need them.*

I infer that...

The article leads me to believe that...

I can tell that...

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## Your Response:

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