Storms Slow Thanksgiving Trips Across the U.S.

Heavy rain, wind, and high water changed holiday plans for many families.



Suitcases sit beside rainy airport windows while airplanes wait outside in stormy weather.

According to BBC Newsround, storms disrupted Thanksgiving **travel** across the United States this week. Thanksgiving is a U.S. holiday when many families meet for a meal. This year, the American Automobile Association expected 81.5 million people to travel at least 50 miles. The **weather** made many of those trips slower and harder.

On Thursday, flight-tracking website FlightAware counted 460 **canceled flights** and 2,508 **delayed** flights. A canceled flight does not leave at all. A delayed flight leaves later than planned. For a family at an airport, that might mean waiting near suitcases for hours. For people driving, it could mean rain on the windshield, closed bridges, or roads near water.

The eastern United States had strong winds and heavy rain. Some places had **coastal flooding**. That means seawater moved onto land that is usually dry. The wind pushed water toward shore. High tides raised the water even more. New Jersey and parts of New York declared states of emergency. That lets officials bring in extra workers, tools, and help faster. New York City's Thanksgiving parade was moved to Saturday because the weather was not safe.

Nearly one million homes and businesses lost electricity in states including Virginia, North Carolina, and New Jersey. Electric crews worked during the holiday to fix damaged lines. Emergency workers also helped people in flooded areas. In Maryland, strong winds closed bridges. About two million people were

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asked to use only necessary water after power problems affected the water system.

Weather caused problems on the West Coast, too. California had king tides. These are extra-high tides that happen when the Sun and Moon pull on Earth's oceans in a strong way. The tides were expected, even without the storm. But wind and waves can push more ocean water onto land. Some coastal trains were canceled, and people were told to stay away from beaches.

The story matters because weather can change ordinary plans very quickly. A parade, a family dinner, or a trip home may depend on safe roads, power, and clear skies. The storms were expected to ease in the East by Saturday. That could make the trip home easier for many families.

Written from reporting by BBC Newsround.

THINK IT THROUGH

1. If you were a town leader during this storm, what would you try to fix first, and why?

2. Was moving the parade to another day a good choice? Defend your answer.

3. How is a big travel storm like a school snow day, and how is it different?

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H C C E I T L I E T S I
D E L A Y E D T O E X E
T S N N N I O E T W A W
G S H S S C R A H F N W
A E D L O O E F F L G Y
N E T O S A P L W O D L
N N L A I S D I E O H F
O H D L A T R G A D C L
A O H L T A L H T I I S
T R A V E L W T H N E F
O E E E A L R S E G T N
C Y V Y L L A H R T E E

CANCELED COASTAL DELAYED FLIGHTS FLOODING
TRAVEL WEATHER

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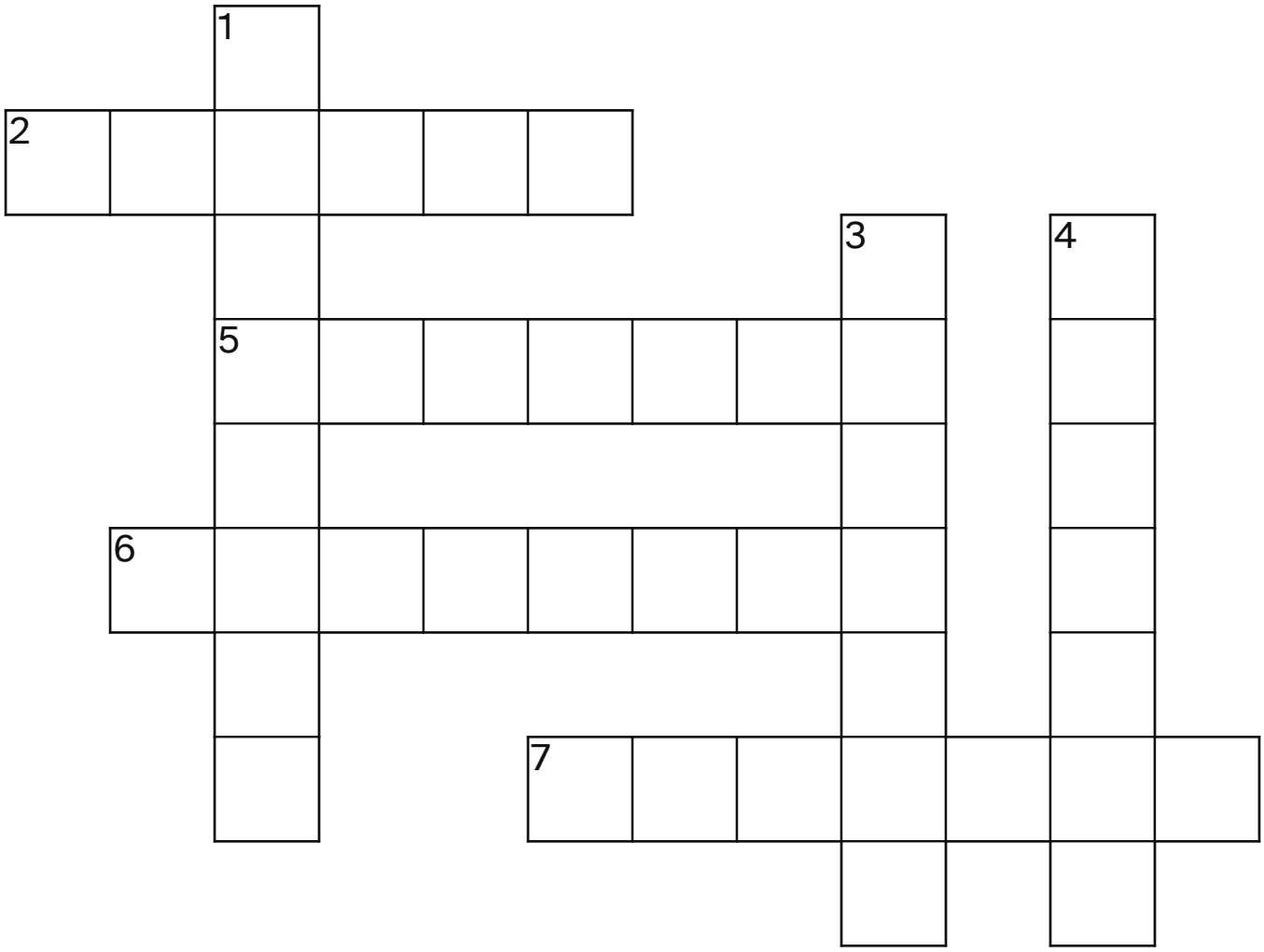

ACROSS

2 Trip from one place to another

5 Near the ocean or sea

6 Water covering land that is usually dry

7 Outdoor conditions like rain, wind, and temperature

DOWN

1 Called off before it could happen

3 Airplane trips

4 Made to happen later than planned

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Where this came from

This article was written for 3andB from the reporting below. It is not a reprint — the wording is ours and the facts are theirs.

BBC Newsround

"Storms cause Thanksgiving travel chaos across the US"

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The article and its discussion questions, a word search, and a crossword.

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