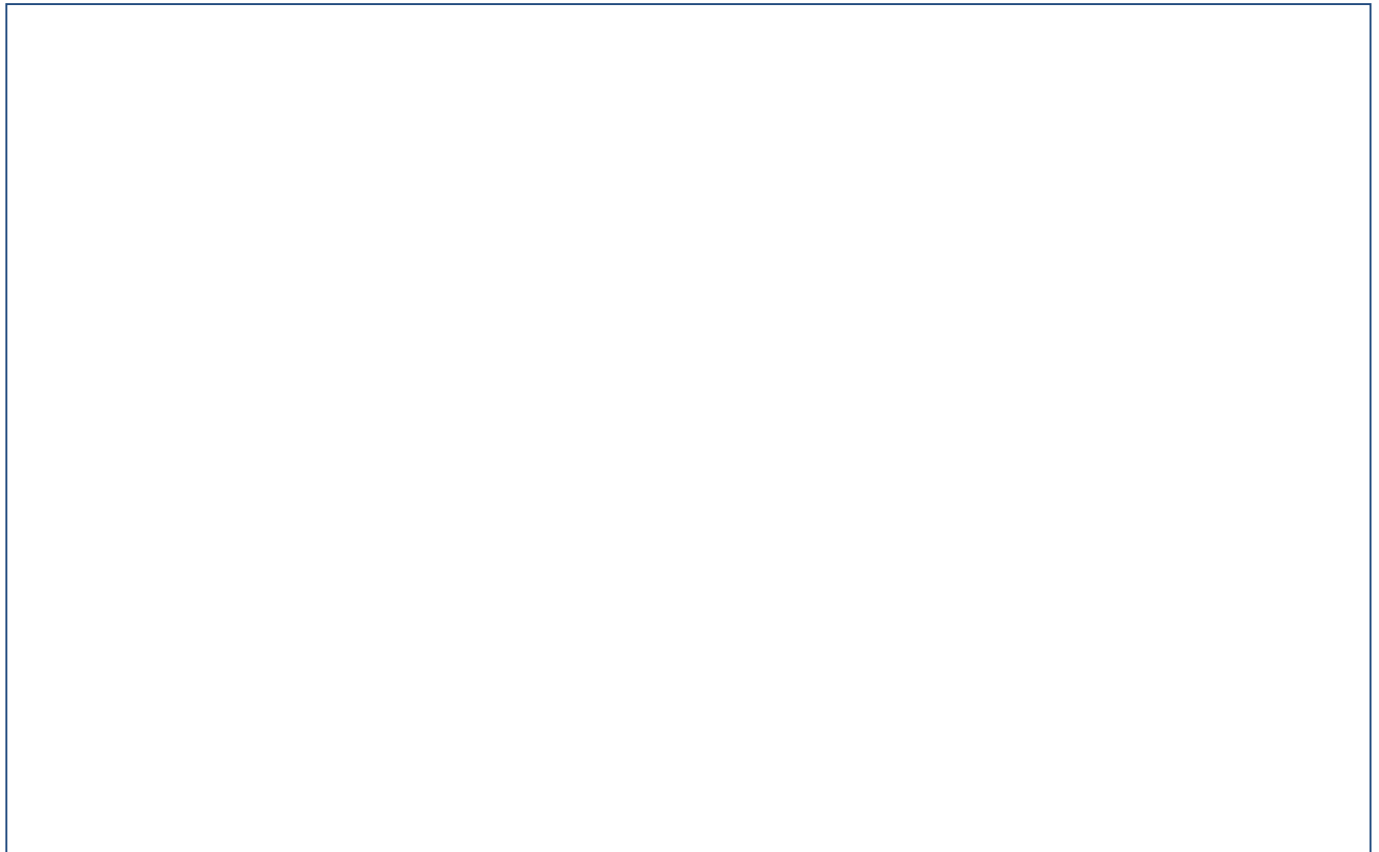


## Natural Disasters

### Task 1 – Disaster Dictation

Listen to your teacher's dictation, and draw what he/she describes here:



- Describe your picture to your partner.
- What has happened?

### Task 2 – Fact finding

Choose a number from the box to complete these sentences about natural disasters. Compare with a partner.

500	26.5	10	1500
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- 1) There are over \_\_\_\_\_ active volcanoes around the world.
- 2) Tsunamis can travel at up to \_\_\_\_\_ miles per hour.

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3) Hurricanes only form when water temperature reaches \_\_\_\_\_ °C.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ % of the world's population live within danger range of volcanoes.

### Task 3 – Natural disasters message board.

Read the message board and then answer the following questions in small groups.

We asked our readers to send in their views on these two questions:

- Do you think there are more natural disasters than in the past?
- Do you think we are prepared to deal with the disasters?

**Sarah** - "I think it's really scary that there are so many natural disasters these days. There are far more than in the past. Every time you switch on the news you see places that are flooded or countries in drought. I'm sure it's all connected to climate change and global warming."

**James** - "We see so many natural disasters on the news these days that you become immune to them. I don't mean that in a horrible way, but it always seems so far away and there's absolutely nothing you can do to help the poor people who are there."

**Cindy** - "The hurricanes and earthquakes that have happened in the past month just prove how unprepared we are for natural disasters. It's crazy that with all the technology and information available to us nowadays natural disasters still kill so many people. They should spend more money on research to develop warning systems for hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis."

**Roger** - "You can't prepare for natural disasters as nobody knows when or where they are going to happen. It's nature's way of reminding us that she is in charge and we should respect her a lot more than we do."

- Who do you agree with?
- Who do you disagree with? Why?
- How would you answer the two questions? Write your message to the message board here:

**Task 4 – Newspaper article**

You are going to ask your teacher questions about a newspaper article about a natural disaster. Listen carefully to the answers and make notes. In groups, write a summary of the article.

**Task 5 – Survival Role play**

Your teacher will give you one of the roles below. Imagine that you have survived a natural disaster and are waiting for rescue. Only three of you can be rescued. You need to justify why you should be one of the rescued people.

A – you are a scientist. You are currently working on a cure for Alzheimer’s disease and you are close to finding a cure. You are the only member of the research team who knows what the exact possible cure is. You are single and don’t have any children.

B – You are a fire fighter. You were awarded a medal for bravery last month after saving a family from a burning house. You are married and have a small baby.

C – You are a teacher in a local school. You love your job and the children in your class are problematic but are now doing very well. You have a special relationship with your students and have taught them all to read. You have a partner and two children.

D – You are a brain surgeon and work at the local hospital. You specialise in treating the very ill and have a high success rate of operations. You are married and have two grown up children.