

Natural Disasters

Nature can be potent and deadly causing mass destruction and loss of life. Some of the worst storms on record to date are hurricanes, tornadoes, and tsunamis. One of the worst hurricanes in US history was category 5 Hurricane Katrina that touched down on US soil on August 29, 2005. Hurricane Katrina caused mass destruction at a distance measuring over 1000 miles beyond the center of the storm. Areas hit included Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, Katrina killed more than 1, 800 people with another 705 still missing and caused estimated damages of \$75 billion. 1.3 million acres of forest lands were completely destroyed costing the forestry industry \$5 billion. Loss of 1 million non-farming jobs contributed to a total economic loss that may exceed \$150 billion for both Louisiana and Mississippi together. One of the worst tornadoes in US history was the tri-state tornado that began on March 18, 1925 in Ellington, Missouri. The tornado lasted 3.5 long hours and caused mass devastation to a number of mining towns on a 219-mile path spanning three states, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, 13 counties, and more than 19 different communities.

The tri-state tornado was rated an F-5 on the Fujita Scale and completely destroyed 15,000 homes. The confirmed death toll was 695 people with another 2,027 injured. Nine schools across the three states were destroyed and total damages equalled \$16.5 million. The most destructive tsunami in history occurred on December 26, 2004, which was caused by an earthquake that registered a 9.0 magnitude. The earthquake had an estimated release of energy equalling the blast of 23, 000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs. Tsunami killer waves 50 feet in height raced faster than a jet plane across the Indian Ocean killing approximately 150,000 people and leaving millions more without a home across 11 different countries.

Reading Test:

Fluency: ____/5 Pronunciation: ____/5 Understanding: ____/5 Meaning: ____/5

Comments: _____

Q. Write and learn the spellings of the underlined words from the text.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 12. _____ |

Q. Write the meanings of the following words in the spaces provided.

- a. destructive _____
- b. spanning _____
- c. economic _____
- d. approximately _____
- e. potent _____

Q. Write the synonyms of the following words in the spaces provided.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| a. approximately _____ | b. destruction _____ |
| c. potent _____ | d. estimate _____ |
| e. contribute _____ | f. exceed _____ |

Q. Answer the following questions to the text 'Natural Disasters' in full sentences.

a. What does the writer say about nature and its strength?

b. What is one of the worst hurricanes in US history?

c. How much damage did the the hurricane cause?

d. Which areas in the United States were affected?

e. Why did the forestry industry suffer damages?

f. What was the worst tornado in US history?

g. How much damage did the tornado cause?

h. What was the result of an earthquake which registered a 9.0 magnitude?
