



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: 2022 PAKISTAN FLOODS

1. Write a few sentences explaining why the 2022 Pakistan floods happened.

2. Do you think it's more important to send aid right away or to work to rebuild? Why?

3. In what other year did Pakistan have bad flooding?
 - A. 2000
 - B. 2010
 - C. 2015

4. How could studying weather help scientists predict floods?
 - A. They could tell when more rain might fall.
 - B. They could cause more rain to fall.
 - C. They could stop tracking temperatures.



5. What does **stranded** mean in the *2022 Pakistan Floods* book?

*Other villages turned into islands. Some people became **stranded**.*

- A. paid a lot of money to do something
- B. sent to a place that is far away
- C. stuck in a place that is hard to leave

6. What does **donated** mean in the *2022 Pakistan Floods* book?

*Many gave food, clothes, and clean water. Others **donated** money.*

- A. gave something to people in need
- B. took something away from others
- C. sent something in the mail



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: 2022 PAKISTAN FLOODS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: COVID-19

1. Write a few sentences describing the main ideas of Chapter 3.
2. Which method of slowing the pandemic's spread do you think was the most useful? Why?
3. When were the first COVID-19 vaccines ready?
 - A. March 2020
 - B. December 2020
 - C. May 2023
4. How can quarantining help slow the spread of a disease?
 - A. People who quarantine stop being sick.
 - B. More people are exposed, so fewer get sick.
 - C. Fewer people are exposed, so fewer get sick.



5. What does **positive** mean in the *COVID-19* book?

*The test is **positive**. That means the girl has COVID-19.*

- A. giving good news
- B. finding signs of illness
- C. failing to work

6. What does **data** mean in the *COVID-19* book?

*Testing and tracking helped scientists study COVID-19. They used the **data** to learn more about the virus.*

- A. places that people go for fun
- B. facts gathered to study something
- C. times of day or night



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: COVID-19

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: THE DUST BOWL

1. Write a few sentences describing why the Dust Bowl happened.
2. If you lived in the Dust Bowl during the 1930s, would you stay or leave? Why?
3. Which area was most affected by the Dust Bowl?
 - A. the East Coast
 - B. the Great Plains
 - C. the Great Depression
4. Why did the government pay farmers not to plant fields?
 - A. so the fields could be used to build roads
 - B. so the farmers could lose more money
 - C. so the land could have time to recover



5. What does **massive** mean in *The Dust Bowl*?

*The **massive** dust cloud was hundreds of miles wide.*

- A. very big
- B. very heavy
- C. very popular

6. What does **conservation** mean in *The Dust Bowl*?

*Both kept soil healthy. So, Bennett was called the Father of Soil **Conservation**.*

- A. work to get rid of something
- B. work to keep something safe
- C. work to make something cost more



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: THE DUST BOWL

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: FUKUSHIMA

1. Write a few sentences describing how the Fukushima power plant was damaged.
2. Do you think nuclear power plants are too dangerous? Why or why not?
3. How far away from the power plant did people have to stay?
 - A. 33 feet (10 m)
 - B. 12.5 miles (20 km)
 - C. 100 miles (161 km)
4. Which event happened first?
 - A. the earthquake under the ocean
 - B. the tsunami that hit the coast
 - C. the explosion at the power plant



5. What does **recover** mean in the *Fukushima* book?

*Japan and other countries worked to help the area **recover**. They sent food and other supplies.*

- A. fall apart
- B. make money
- C. get better

6. What does **gradually** mean in the *Fukushima* book?

*Cleanup work near the power plant continued for more than 10 years. **Gradually**, radiation levels lowered.*

- A. right away
- B. in just a short time
- C. slowly over time



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: FUKUSHIMA

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: HURRICANE KATRINA

1. Write a few sentences describing some of the damage Hurricane Katrina caused.
2. Which way of predicting or preparing for a hurricane do you think is most important?
3. Which place had the worst damage from Hurricane Katrina?
 - A. Alabama
 - B. Mississippi
 - C. New Orleans
4. Why would being below sea level increase a place's risk of floods?
 - A. Ocean waves cannot cause floods.
 - B. Even a small rise in water could cover the ground.
 - C. Places that are below sea level get less rain.



5. What does **rescuers** mean in the *Hurricane Katrina* book?

*When the storm stops, **rescuers** come. They use boats and helicopters to look for survivors.*

- A. people who stay far away from danger
- B. people who try to help or save others
- C. people who harm others on purpose

6. What does **recover** mean in the *Hurricane Katrina* book?

*People worked to rebuild damaged areas. Many places took years to **recover**. Others never did.*

- A. be damaged by a disaster
- B. stay exactly the same as always
- C. return to how things were before



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: HURRICANE KATRINA

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

1. Write a few sentences describing how and why the tsunami formed.
2. Would you like to work as a scientist who studies tsunamis? Why or why not?
3. How tall did the tsunami's tallest waves get?
 - A. less than 26 feet (8 m)
 - B. more than 160 feet (49 m)
 - C. more than 500 feet (152 m)
4. What would likely happen if a coast had fewer mangrove trees?
 - A. Tsunamis would cause more damage there.
 - B. Tsunamis would cause less damage there.
 - C. Tsunamis could no longer happen there.



5. What does **crops** mean in the *Indian Ocean Tsunami* book?

*Salty ocean water leaked into farmlands. It killed **crops**. As a result, many people ran out of food.*

- A. plants people grow for food
- B. places where people build their homes
- C. animals that people ride

6. What does **aid** mean in the *Indian Ocean Tsunami* book?

*Many countries sent **aid**. They helped people have clean water and safe places to stay.*

- A. money kept in a bank
- B. money paid to a country's government
- C. help given to people in need



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: MOUNT ST. HELENS

1. Write a few sentences explaining the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. What part of the Mount St. Helens eruption do you find most interesting? Why?
3. How tall was the volcano before it erupted?
 - A. 9,677 feet (2,950 m)
 - B. 8,363 feet (2,549 m)
 - C. 15 miles (24 km)
4. Why would ash filling the air make a day feel colder?
 - A. The ash would bring rain.
 - B. The ash would let in more sunlight.
 - C. The ash would block some of the sun's heat.



5. What does **landslide** mean in the *Mount St. Helens* book?

*It causes a huge **landslide** on Mount St. Helens. Rocks and dirt fall down the slopes.*

- A. water spilling out from a river
- B. earth falling down from a mountain
- C. ice and snow piling up on a mountain

6. What does **accurate** mean in the *Mount St. Helens* book?

*Some areas totally changed shape. Maps made before the eruption were no longer **accurate**.*

- A. wrong
- B. correct
- C. able to read



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: MOUNT ST. HELENS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

MAJOR DISASTERS: TEXAS ICE STORMS

1. Write a few sentences explaining the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Would you rather live in a very warm place or a very cold place? Why?
3. Which strong ice storm hit Texas in 2023?
 - A. Winter Storm Mara
 - B. Winter Storm Uri
 - C. Snowmageddon
4. How would fixing the power grid help people in future storms?
 - A. People would be less likely to lose their heating.
 - B. Roads and runways would be safer to use.
 - C. Cities would not get as much ice.



5. What does **mild** mean in the *Texas Ice Storms* book?

*Texas winters are usually **mild**. In Texas, only a few days of freezing rain each year are expected.*

- A. very cold and rainy
- B. not very cold or rainy
- C. not very spicy

6. What does **alert** mean in the *Texas Ice Storms* book?

*Scientists send out winter storm warnings. They **alert** people when dangerous weather is coming.*

- A. let people know something
- B. don't tell people something
- C. hide something from people



ANSWER KEY FOR MAJOR DISASTERS: TEXAS ICE STORMS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. A