

3 Natural hazards

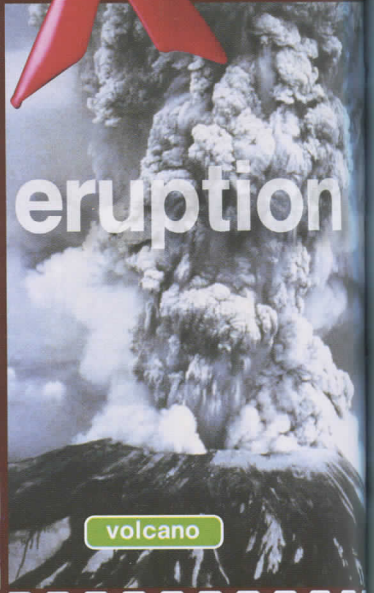
THE JOURNAL OF DISASTER RESEARCH

AIDS

Threats to Human Life

Humans face a variety of **hazards**. *The Journal of Disaster Research* has identified the biggest threats to the population.

eruption



hurricane



disaster



flood



tornado

Natural **disasters** are becoming increasingly common. This is partially because land is being overdeveloped. Then natural landscape slows and absorbs floodwaters. It also stabilizes land on slopes. Without it, **floods** and **landslides** happen more frequently. In addition, global warming is creating more powerful **hurricanes**. Called **typhoons** in some regions, these storms form over warm ocean waters. Rising temperatures are causing more category 4 and 5 storms. These are the most severe kind. Another danger is posed by **tornadoes**. They are frequently seen in the central U.S.

Global warming does not seem to be connected to natural disasters like **eruptions** from **volcanoes**. But these disasters are no less problematic. There are about 1,900 active volcanoes. Any one of them could erupt at any time. Also found along fault lines, **earthquakes** kill about 10,000 people yearly. Death tolls increase because other disasters, like floods and tsunamis, follow.

Finally, disease is another major threat. Many developing countries are facing an **AIDS crisis**. Between 2004 and 2020, up to 60 million people could die of AIDS. Additionally, there are between 270 and 500 million **malaria** cases each year. **Pathogens** are passed on by mosquitoes. The insects are becoming resistant to pesticides, making the spread of malaria hard to stop.



earthquake

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some natural disasters?
- 2 What diseases are causing a crisis in developing countries?

Reading

2 Read the journal article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the article?
A how to stop natural disasters
B disasters in developing countries
C causes of global warming
D problems facing humanity
- 2 Which of the following is NOT true of earthquakes?
A They are not connected to global warming.
B There are about 1,900 of them each year.
C They often lead to other natural disasters.
D They cause about 10,000 deaths annually.
- 3 Why are some natural disasters happening more frequently?
A Temperatures are dropping in some areas.
B Ocean waters are dropping in temperature.
C Natural landscape is being destroyed.
D Insects are more resistant to pesticides.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 ___ flood | 5 ___ hurricane |
| 2 ___ AIDS | 6 ___ typhoon |
| 3 ___ pathogen | 7 ___ earthquake |
| 4 ___ hazard | 8 ___ eruption |

- A something that causes a disease
 B a danger
 C a storm that usually occurs in tropical regions
 D an event in which the ground shakes suddenly and sometimes violently
 E an event in which too much water flows into an area
 F an event in which ash, lava, rocks, and gas are forced out of a volcano
 G a disease that destroys the immune system
 H a storm like a typhoon

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

- Over 3,000 people were killed in the **disaster / pathogen**.
- Malaria / AIDS** is a disease that is passed on by an insect.
- The winds blew over 100 miles per hour during the **flood / tornado**.
- It's unwise to build on an unstable slope because a(n) **landslide / eruption** might occur.
- Mt. Kilauea is an active **volcano / eruption** in Hawaii.
- Millions of people have been infected, and the **hurricane / crisis** is getting worse.

5 Listen and read the journal article again. Why are hurricanes getting more powerful?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two scientists. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- ___ Several hundred people died in a flood.
- ___ Landslides followed an earthquake.
- ___ The homes were destroyed by a tornado.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Scientist 1: I just read that there was a 1 _____ in San Carlo.

Scientist 2: I 2 _____ . Hundreds of homes were destroyed.

Scientist 1: 3 _____ ? That region has already been through so much.

Scientist 2: I know. First, there was that 4 _____ .

Scientist 1: Yeah, it caused billions in damage. And over four hundred people died, remember?

Scientist 2: Yes, it was 5 _____ .

Scientist 1: And after that, there was the 6 _____ . Weren't the two events connected?

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I just read that there was a ...
What horrible luck.
The ... caused ...

Student A: You are a scientist. Talk to Student B about:

- a region that has been hit by multiple disasters
- the effects of the disasters

Student B: You are a scientist. Talk to Student A about a series of disasters in an area. React to the bad news.

Writing

9 Use the journal article and the conversation from Task 8 to write a news article about a region that has been hit by a series of disasters. Include: information about the most recent disaster, information about the previous disasters, and the damage caused.