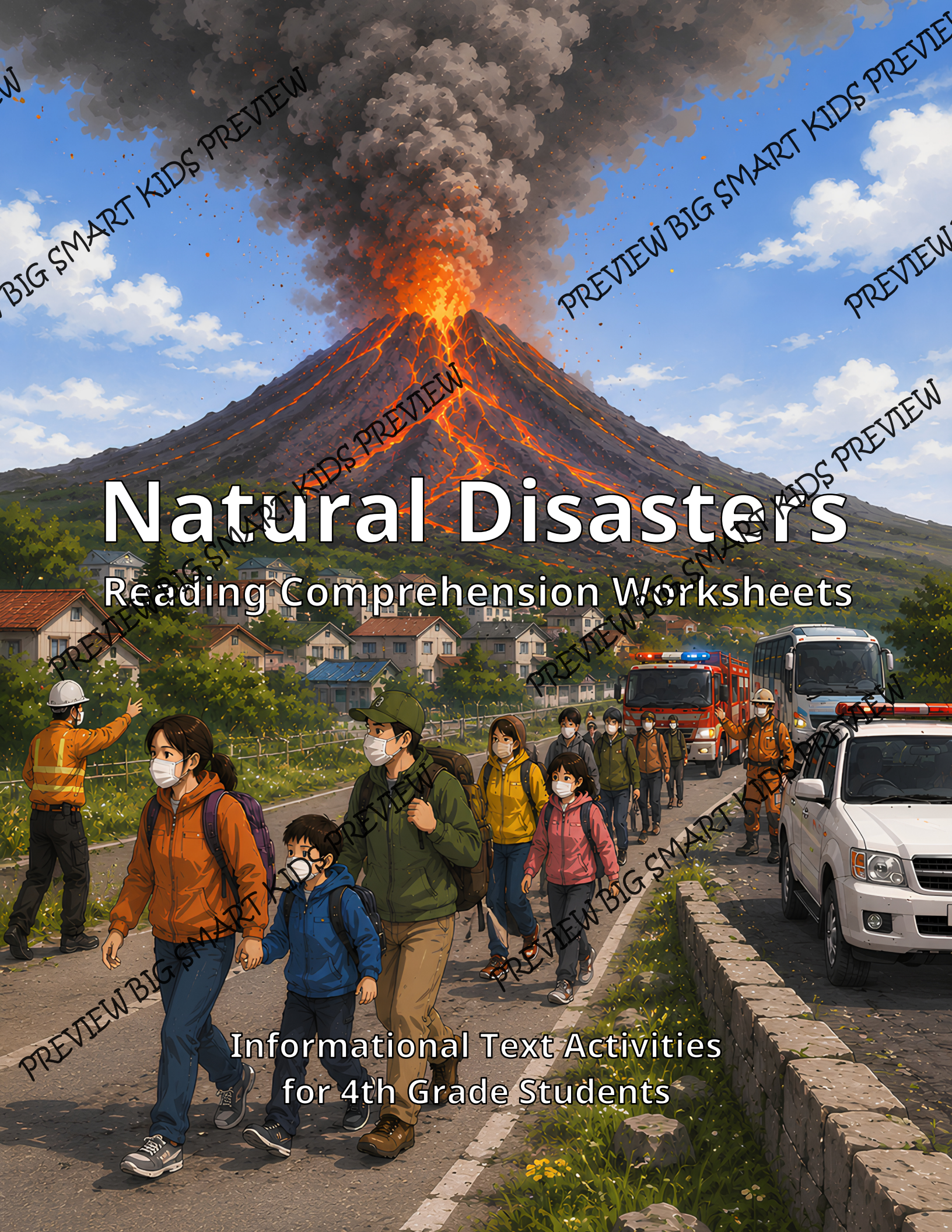




Natural Disasters

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Informational Text Activities
for 4th Grade Students

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 1: Earthquakes

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Earthquakes are natural disasters that happen when the ground suddenly shakes. Most earthquakes occur when large pieces of Earth's crust, called tectonic plates, move against each other. Some earthquakes are small and difficult to feel, but others can cause serious damage to buildings, roads, and cities.



The shaking from an earthquake can crack the ground and cause objects to fall. In strong earthquakes, buildings may collapse if they are not built to handle the movement. Earthquakes can also break water pipes, damage bridges, and cause power outages in large areas.

Many earthquakes happen near faults, which are cracks in Earth's crust. Scientists use special tools called seismographs to measure earthquakes and study how strong they are. Although scientists cannot predict exactly when earthquakes will happen, they can study patterns and help communities prepare for future disasters.

People can stay safer during earthquakes by practicing safety plans. During an earthquake, experts recommend getting under a strong table, covering the head, and staying away from windows. Emergency kits with food, water, and flashlights can also help families after a disaster.

Earthquakes are powerful natural events that can change communities quickly. Learning about earthquake safety and preparation can help people respond more carefully during emergencies.

Passage 1 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Earthquakes can damage communities and affect people's safety
 - B. Scientists can predict every earthquake before it happens
 - C. Emergency kits are used only during storms and floods
 - D. Tectonic plates stay still under Earth's surface
2. What causes most earthquakes?
 - A. Ocean waves moving inland
 - B. Tectonic plates shifting underground
 - C. Strong winds moving across land
 - D. Heavy snow falling onto mountains
3. What may happen during a strong earthquake?
 - A. Roads and bridges can become damaged
 - B. Rivers stop flowing through cities
 - C. Trees suddenly stop growing
 - D. Oceans completely dry up
4. Why do scientists study earthquakes?
 - A. To create new roads after disasters
 - B. To stop tectonic plates from moving
 - C. To help communities prepare for disasters
 - D. To control weather during emergencies

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can earthquakes create problems for cities and towns?

6. Explain one earthquake safety action mentioned in the passage.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “faults” mean in the passage?

- A. underground areas filled with water
- B. cracks in Earth’s crust
- C. storms that damage cities
- D. places covered by snow

8. What does the word “collapse” mean in the passage?

- A. to remain standing safely
- B. to shake very slowly
- C. to fall down suddenly
- D. to move beneath the ground

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how earthquakes can affect communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is learning about earthquake safety important? Explain your answer.

Answer Key - Passage 1: Earthquakes

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 1 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Earthquakes can damage buildings, roads, bridges, and power systems in cities and towns.

6. Sample Answer:

People can stay safer by getting under a strong table and staying away from windows.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. B
8. C

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says earthquakes can damage roads, bridges, buildings, and water pipes.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Earthquakes

Grade Level:
4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn what causes earthquakes, how earthquakes affect communities, and how people can prepare for earthquake emergencies.

Skills Covered:

- Cause and Effect
- Main Idea
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how tectonic plates move beneath Earth's surface.
- Ask students to identify cause-and-effect relationships in the passage.
- Encourage students to explain why emergency preparation is important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Passage 2: Volcanoes

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Volcanoes are openings in Earth's surface where melted rock, gas, and ash can escape from deep underground. Melted rock beneath Earth's surface is called magma. When magma reaches the surface during an eruption, it is called lava. Some volcanoes erupt quietly, while others explode with great force.



During a volcanic eruption, hot lava can flow down the sides of a mountain and burn plants, forests, and buildings. Volcanoes may also release thick clouds of ash into the air. Ash can cover roads, damage homes, and make it difficult for people to breathe. In some eruptions, rocks and hot gases can travel very quickly down the volcano.

Many volcanoes form near the edges of tectonic plates. Scientists carefully monitor active volcanoes by studying earthquakes, gas levels, and ground movement nearby. These warning signs can help scientists understand when a volcano may become more dangerous.

People who live near volcanoes often practice evacuation plans to stay safe during eruptions. Emergency workers may warn families to leave dangerous areas before lava or ash spreads closer to towns and cities. Wearing masks and staying indoors can also help protect people from volcanic ash.

Although volcanoes can be dangerous, they also help shape Earth's surface over time. Some volcanic soil becomes rich for farming after eruptions. Learning about volcano safety and preparation can help communities respond more safely during emergencies.

Passage 2 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Volcanoes only erupt near oceans
 - B. Volcanic ash improves roads and buildings
 - C. Volcanoes can affect people and the environment
 - D. Lava always moves slowly during eruptions
2. What is magma called after it reaches Earth's surface?
 - A. ash
 - B. lava
 - C. smoke
 - D. steam
3. What can volcanic ash cause during an eruption?
 - A. Cleaner air in cities
 - B. Safer roads for travel
 - C. Difficulty breathing for people
 - D. Faster movement underground
4. Why do scientists monitor active volcanoes?
 - A. To stop eruptions completely
 - B. To predict storms near mountains
 - C. To understand warning signs of eruptions
 - D. To cool lava before it reaches towns

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can volcanoes be dangerous for nearby communities?

6. Describe one way people can stay safe during a volcanic eruption.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “eruption” mean in the passage?

- A. melted rock beneath Earth
- B. the release of lava, ash, and gases
- C. a crack deep under the ocean
- D. the cooling of volcanic mountains

8. What does the word “monitor” mean in the passage?

- A. to study and watch carefully
- B. to move away from danger
- C. to repair broken buildings
- D. to travel across mountains

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how volcanoes can affect people or communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is it important for communities near volcanoes to practice evacuation plans?

Answer Key - Passage 2: Volcanoes

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 2 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Volcanoes can release lava, ash, rocks, and hot gases that damage homes, roads, and forests.

6. Sample Answer:

People can stay safer by following evacuation plans, wearing masks, and staying indoors during ashfall.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. B
8. A

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says volcanic ash can cover roads and make it difficult for people to breathe.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Volcanoes

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn how volcanoes form, how eruptions affect communities, and how people prepare for volcanic emergencies.

Skills Covered:

- Sequence
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss the difference between magma and lava.
- Ask students to identify warning signs scientists monitor near volcanoes.
- Encourage students to explain why evacuation plans are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 3: Hurricanes

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Hurricanes are large powerful storms that form over warm ocean water. These storms bring strong winds, heavy rain, lightning, and dangerous waves. Hurricanes usually begin as smaller storms called tropical storms before growing stronger over the ocean.

When hurricanes move toward land, they can cause serious damage to homes, roads, trees, and power lines. Strong winds may break windows or tear roofs from buildings. Heavy rain can also cause flooding in neighborhoods and streets. Along coastlines, large ocean waves called storm surges can push water onto land and flood nearby communities.



Scientists use satellites and weather tools to track hurricanes as they move across the ocean. Weather experts study wind speed, storm direction, and ocean temperatures to predict where hurricanes may travel. These warnings help communities prepare before the storm arrives.

People who live in hurricane areas often prepare emergency supplies before storms begin. Families may store food, water, batteries, and flashlights in emergency kits. Some people evacuate dangerous coastal areas when officials warn that a hurricane may become severe.

Although hurricanes can be destructive, learning about storm safety and preparation can help protect lives during emergencies.

Passage 3 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Hurricanes only happen during winter months
 - B. Hurricanes are powerful storms that can damage communities
 - C. Storm surges are smaller than regular ocean waves
 - D. Satellites can stop hurricanes from forming
2. Where do hurricanes form?
 - A. Over warm ocean water
 - B. Deep underground near faults
 - C. In dry desert regions
 - D. On snowy mountain tops
3. What can happen during a hurricane?
 - A. Roads become colder than oceans
 - B. Trees may grow faster after storms
 - C. Strong winds can damage buildings
 - D. Oceans stop creating large waves
4. Why do scientists track hurricanes?
 - A. To change the direction of storms
 - B. To prepare communities before storms arrive
 - C. To lower ocean temperatures quickly
 - D. To repair damaged buildings after storms

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can hurricanes be dangerous for people living near coastlines?

6. Describe one way families prepare for hurricanes.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “surges” mean in the passage?

- A. strong movements of ocean water
- B. small cracks in the ground
- C. groups of dark storm clouds
- D. emergency vehicles during storms

8. What does the word “evacuate” mean in the passage?

- A. to rebuild damaged homes
- B. to leave a dangerous area
- C. to study storms carefully
- D. to collect rainwater safely

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how hurricanes can affect communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is hurricane preparation important for families and communities?

Answer Key - Passage 3: Hurricanes

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 3 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Hurricanes can cause flooding, strong winds, and storm surges that damage homes and roads near coastlines.

6. Sample Answer:

Families prepare by storing food, water, batteries, and flashlights in emergency kits.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. A
8. B

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says heavy rain and strong winds can damage homes, trees, and power lines.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Hurricanes

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn how hurricanes form, how they affect communities, and how people prepare for dangerous storms.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how warm ocean water helps hurricanes form.
- Ask students to identify dangers caused by wind, rain, and storm surges.
- Encourage students to explain why evacuation warnings are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 4: Tornadoes

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Tornadoes are powerful spinning columns of air that connect strong storms to the ground. Tornadoes can form very quickly during severe thunderstorms. Some tornadoes are small and weak, while others are large enough to destroy buildings, trees, and vehicles in only a few minutes.



The winds inside a tornado can spin at extremely high speeds. These winds may rip roofs off houses, break windows, and throw heavy objects through the air. Tornadoes often leave long paths of damage across towns, farms, and roads. Flying debris can make tornadoes especially dangerous for people and animals.

Scientists use weather radar and storm reports to track tornado conditions.

Meteorologists study storm clouds, wind patterns, and changes in the atmosphere to understand when tornadoes may form. Tornado warnings help communities prepare and move to safer locations before storms arrive.

During a tornado warning, people are often told to go to basements, storm shelters, or small rooms without windows. Schools and communities practice tornado drills so students and families know what to do during emergencies. Emergency weather alerts can also help people react more quickly to dangerous storms.

Although tornadoes can cause serious destruction, learning tornado safety rules and practicing emergency plans can help save lives during severe weather.

Passage 4 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Tornadoes are dangerous storms that can damage communities
 - B. Basements are safer than school buildings during storms
 - C. Tornadoes only happen in farming areas
 - D. Weather radar creates tornado warnings automatically
2. What can tornado winds do during a storm?
 - A. Freeze roads and rivers quickly
 - B. Lift heavy objects into the air
 - C. Stop thunderstorms from growing
 - D. Create earthquakes underground
3. Why do meteorologists study storm patterns?
 - A. To rebuild homes after storms
 - B. To stop tornadoes from forming
 - C. To understand when tornadoes may develop
 - D. To lower wind speeds during storms
4. Where are people often told to go during a tornado warning?
 - A. Open fields away from buildings
 - B. Beaches near the ocean
 - C. Tall rooms with large windows
 - D. Basements or storm shelters

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can tornadoes be dangerous for communities?

6. Describe one way people prepare for tornado emergencies.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “debris” mean in the passage?

- A. damaged pieces thrown by storms
- B. loud sounds made by thunder
- C. dark clouds before rainstorms
- D. underground storm shelters

8. What does the word “atmosphere” mean in the passage?

- A. the inside of buildings
- B. the layer of air around Earth
- C. the center of a tornado
- D. the water near coastlines

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how tornadoes can affect people or buildings.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is practicing tornado safety important for schools and families?

Answer Key - Passage 4: Tornadoes

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 4 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Tornadoes can destroy buildings, damage roads, and throw dangerous debris through the air.

6. Sample Answer:

People prepare by practicing tornado drills and learning where safe shelters are located.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. A
8. B

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says tornado winds can rip roofs off houses and throw heavy objects through the air.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Tornadoes

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn how tornadoes form, how they affect communities, and how people prepare for tornado emergencies.

Skills Covered:

- Compare and Contrast
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how tornadoes form during severe thunderstorms.
- Ask students to identify dangers caused by strong winds and flying debris.
- Encourage students to explain why tornado drills and shelters are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 5: Floods

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Floods happen when too much water covers land that is usually dry. Floods can occur after heavy rain, strong storms, melting snow, or overflowing rivers. Some floods develop slowly over several days, while flash floods can happen very quickly with little warning.



Floodwaters can damage homes, roads, bridges, and farms. Fast-moving water may carry away cars, trees, and other objects. Floods can also make drinking water unsafe and cause power outages in communities. In some areas, floodwaters may remain for many days before the land dries again.

Scientists and weather experts monitor rainfall, river levels, and storm conditions to help predict floods. Communities near rivers and coastlines often build flood barriers and drainage systems to reduce damage. Emergency officials may warn people to move to higher ground when floodwaters begin rising.

Families can prepare for floods by making emergency plans and storing important supplies. During floods, people are told to avoid walking or driving through deep water because strong currents can be dangerous. Listening to weather alerts can help families respond more quickly during emergencies.

Although floods can cause serious damage, learning flood safety rules and preparing ahead of time can help protect people and communities.

Passage 5 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Floods only happen near oceans
 - B. Floods are dangerous disasters caused by too much water
 - C. Drinking water becomes safer after floods
 - D. Snow is the main cause of every flood
2. What can happen during a flood?
 - A. Roads and bridges may become damaged
 - B. Rivers completely disappear underground
 - C. Floodwaters stop moving after storms
 - D. Trees begin growing more quickly
3. Why do emergency officials tell people to move to higher ground?
 - A. To study river levels more closely
 - B. To avoid dangerous floodwaters
 - C. To repair roads during storms
 - D. To build drainage systems faster
4. Why should people avoid driving through floodwaters?
 - A. Floodwaters may contain sharp ice
 - B. Cars move faster in deep water
 - C. Strong currents can be dangerous
 - D. Floodwaters quickly become dry land

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can floods create problems for communities?

6. Describe one way families can prepare for floods.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “overflowing” mean in the passage?

- A. rising and spreading beyond limits
- B. freezing during cold weather
- C. moving underground quietly
- D. becoming smaller over time

8. What does the word “currents” mean in the passage?

- A. strong movements of water
- B. cracks beneath the ground
- C. groups of emergency workers
- D. warning sounds during storms

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how floods can affect people or communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is flood preparation important for families and communities?

Answer Key - Passage 5: Floods

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 5 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Floods can damage homes, roads, bridges, farms, and water systems in communities.

6. Sample Answer:

Families can prepare by making emergency plans and storing important supplies.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. A
8. A

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says floods can damage roads, bridges, homes, and drinking water systems.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Floods

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn what causes floods, how floods affect communities, and how people prepare for flood emergencies.

Skills Covered:

- Problem and Solution
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss different causes of floods such as storms and overflowing rivers.
- Ask students to identify dangers caused by fast-moving floodwaters.
- Encourage students to explain why emergency planning is important during floods.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 6: Tsunamis

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Tsunamis are giant ocean waves caused by powerful movements under the ocean floor. Most tsunamis happen after large underwater earthquakes, but volcanic eruptions and landslides can also create them. Unlike normal ocean waves, tsunamis can travel across the ocean very quickly and carry enormous amounts of water.



As a tsunami moves closer to shore, the waves grow taller and stronger. When the waves reach land, they can flood coastlines, destroy buildings, and sweep away roads, boats, and vehicles. Tsunamis can also carry dangerous debris through towns and cities near the ocean.

Scientists use earthquake sensors, ocean buoys, and warning systems to detect possible tsunamis. After strong underwater earthquakes, emergency alerts may warn people living near coastlines to move to higher ground quickly. In many places, evacuation routes and tsunami warning signs help communities prepare for emergencies.

People who live near the ocean often practice tsunami drills and emergency plans. Experts recommend leaving beaches and coastal areas immediately after tsunami warnings are announced. Listening to emergency information can help families react more safely during disasters.

Although tsunamis are rare compared to other natural disasters, they can be extremely dangerous. Learning tsunami safety rules and understanding warning systems can help protect lives in coastal communities.

Passage 6 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Tsunamis are giant waves that can seriously damage coastal communities
- B. Ocean waves become smaller near coastlines during storms
- C. Most earthquakes happen because of tsunamis
- D. Beaches are always safe after underwater earthquakes

2. What usually causes tsunamis?

- A. Heavy snowfall in mountains
- B. Strong winds over the ocean
- C. Large underwater earthquakes
- D. Long periods of dry weather

3. What can happen when tsunamis reach land?

- A. Roads and buildings may be destroyed
- B. Ocean water quickly disappears
- C. Trees stop growing near beaches
- D. Storm clouds move underground

4. Why do emergency officials tell people to move to higher ground?

- A. To study the ocean more carefully
- B. To avoid dangerous tsunami waves
- C. To repair damaged warning signs
- D. To measure underwater earthquakes

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can tsunamis be dangerous for coastal communities?

6. Describe one way communities prepare for tsunami emergencies.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “debris” mean in the passage?

- A. broken objects carried by water
- B. warning lights near beaches
- C. groups of ocean animals
- D. deep cracks in the ground

8. What does the word “evacuation” mean in the passage?

- A. studying earthquake patterns
- B. leaving a dangerous area safely
- C. building homes near coastlines
- D. measuring waves in the ocean

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how tsunamis can affect people or communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is it important for coastal communities to understand tsunami warning systems?

Answer Key - Passage 6: Tsunamis

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 6 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. B

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Tsunamis can flood coastlines, destroy buildings, and carry dangerous debris through communities.

6. Sample Answer:

Communities prepare by practicing evacuation drills and using tsunami warning systems.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. A
8. B

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says tsunami waves can destroy roads, buildings, and vehicles near coastlines.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Tsunamis

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn what causes tsunamis, how they affect coastal communities, and how warning systems help people stay safe.

Skills Covered:

- Text Evidence
- Cause and Effect
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading
- Main Idea

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how underwater earthquakes can create giant ocean waves.
- Ask students to identify dangers caused by tsunami flooding and debris.
- Encourage students to explain why evacuation plans are important near coastlines.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 7: Wildfires

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Wildfires are large uncontrolled fires that spread quickly through forests, grasslands, and dry areas. Wildfires can begin naturally from lightning strikes, but many are also caused by human activities such as unattended campfires or sparks from equipment. Hot weather, strong winds, and dry plants can make wildfires spread even faster.



As wildfires move through an area, they can burn trees, homes, and wildlife habitats. Thick smoke from fires may spread across nearby towns and make the air unhealthy to breathe. Strong winds can carry burning embers long distances, causing new fires to start far away from the original wildfire.

Firefighters and emergency crews work together to slow wildfires and protect communities. Helicopters and airplanes may drop water or fire retardant onto burning areas. In some places, firefighters create firebreaks by clearing land to stop fires from spreading farther.

Families living near wildfire areas often prepare emergency evacuation plans before fire season begins. During wildfire emergencies, people may need to leave quickly if officials announce evacuation warnings. Staying informed through emergency alerts can help communities respond more safely.

Although wildfires can be destructive, learning fire safety rules and preparing ahead of time can help reduce dangers during emergencies.

Passage 7 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Firefighters use special equipment during emergencies
- B. Dry weather can increase fire danger in forests
- C. Wildfires can spread quickly and threaten communities
- D. Smoke from fires may travel across towns

2. What can make wildfires spread faster?

- A. Cold temperatures and snow
- B. Wet ground after rainstorms
- C. Hot weather and strong winds
- D. Underground water near forests

3. Why are burning embers dangerous during wildfires?

- A. They can start new fires in other places
- B. They quickly put out smaller fires
- C. They help firefighters clear forests
- D. They lower temperatures near homes

4. Why do firefighters create firebreaks?

- A. To build evacuation roads
- B. To stop fires from spreading farther
- C. To measure smoke in the air
- D. To store emergency equipment

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can wildfires create dangerous conditions for communities?

6. Describe one way people prepare for wildfire emergencies.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “embers” mean in the passage?

- A. emergency vehicles during disasters
- B. underground areas near forests
- C. dark smoke rising into the sky
- D. small burning pieces from a fire

8. What does the word “evacuation” mean in the passage?

- A. safely leaving a dangerous area
- B. rebuilding homes after disasters
- C. studying weather conditions
- D. measuring fire temperatures

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how firefighters or emergency crews respond to wildfires.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is it important for families living near forests or dry areas to have evacuation plans?

Answer Key - Passage 7: Wildfires

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 7 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Wildfires can burn homes, forests, and wildlife habitats while creating unhealthy smoke in communities.

6. Sample Answer:

Families prepare by creating evacuation plans and listening to emergency alerts.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. D
8. A

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says firefighters may create firebreaks or drop water from helicopters to slow wildfires.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Wildfires

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn what causes wildfires, how they spread, and how communities prepare for wildfire emergencies.

Skills Covered:

- Inference
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how weather conditions affect wildfire spread.
- Ask students to identify dangers caused by smoke and burning embers.
- Encourage students to explain why evacuation plans are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Passage 8: Droughts

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Droughts are long periods of time with very little rainfall. During a drought, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs may lose large amounts of water. Droughts can happen in many parts of the world and may last for weeks, months, or even years. Hot temperatures and dry weather can make drought conditions become more severe.



Droughts can create serious problems for farms, animals, and communities. Crops may dry out without enough water, and farmers may struggle to grow food. Some animals have difficulty finding water during droughts, especially in dry grasslands and forests. In cities and towns, water shortages may force people to limit how much water they use each day.

Scientists study rainfall patterns, temperatures, and soil conditions to monitor droughts. Communities sometimes create water conservation plans during dry seasons to help save water supplies. People may reduce water use by taking shorter showers, fixing leaks, and watering plants less often.

Wildfires are also more likely during droughts because dry plants can burn more easily. Emergency officials often warn communities about increased fire danger during long dry periods. Learning about drought safety and water conservation can help communities respond more carefully during dry conditions.

Although droughts develop more slowly than many other natural disasters, they can still affect millions of people and animals over time.

Passage 8 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Reservoirs store water during dry weather
 - B. Farmers grow crops during warm seasons
 - C. Droughts can create problems for communities
 - D. Wildfires spread through forests
2. What usually happens during a drought?
 - A. Strong winds damage buildings
 - B. Very little rain falls over time
 - C. Oceans create larger waves
 - D. Heavy storms flood neighborhoods
3. Why can droughts harm farms?
 - A. Rivers freeze during summer
 - B. Animals move underground
 - C. Snow covers fields for months
 - D. Crops may dry out without water
4. Why do communities conserve water during droughts?
 - A. To protect roads from floods
 - B. To prepare for earthquakes
 - C. To lower outdoor temperatures
 - D. To save water supplies

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can droughts affect both people and animals?

6. Describe one way people can conserve water during droughts.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “reservoirs” mean in the passage?

- A. groups of trees near farms
- B. emergency shelters during storms
- C. places used to store water
- D. underground tunnels for rivers

8. What does the word “conservation” mean in the passage?

- A. rebuilding damaged buildings
- B. using resources carefully
- C. measuring outdoor temperatures
- D. studying weather conditions

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how droughts can affect farms or communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is saving water important during drought conditions?

Answer Key - Passage 8: Droughts

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 8 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Droughts can reduce water supplies for people, animals, farms, and communities.

6. Sample Answer:

People can conserve water by fixing leaks or taking shorter showers.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. C
8. B

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says crops may dry out and cities may face water shortages during droughts.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Droughts

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn what causes droughts, how droughts affect communities and farms, and why water conservation is important.

Skills Covered:

- Cause and Effect
- Main Idea
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how long periods without rain affect water supplies.
- Ask students to identify ways droughts affect farms, wildlife, and cities.
- Encourage students to explain why conserving water is important during dry conditions.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Passage 9: Blizzards

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Blizzards are severe winter storms with strong winds, heavy snow, and very cold temperatures. During a blizzard, blowing snow can make it difficult to see roads, buildings, and other people. Some blizzards last for only a few hours, while others continue for several days.



Heavy snow and ice can create dangerous conditions for communities. Roads may become blocked, and power lines can break under the weight of snow or ice. Strong winds can also create large snowdrifts that trap vehicles and make travel unsafe. During major blizzards, schools and businesses may close to protect people from dangerous weather.

Weather experts use satellites, radar, and temperature data to track winter storms before they arrive. Blizzard warnings help communities prepare for dangerous snow and freezing temperatures. Families often store food, water, blankets, flashlights, and batteries before strong winter storms begin.

People are usually advised to stay indoors during blizzards unless travel is absolutely necessary. Wearing warm clothing in layers can help protect people from frostbite and dangerous cold temperatures. Emergency workers may rescue stranded drivers and help restore power after storms.

Although blizzards can be dangerous, learning winter safety rules and preparing ahead of time can help communities stay safer during severe storms.

Passage 9 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Snowstorms happen during winter months
- B. Strong winds can move heavy snow
- C. Blizzards can create dangerous winter conditions
- D. Emergency workers help stranded drivers

2. What can happen during a blizzard?

- A. Roads may become blocked by snow
- B. Rivers dry out during cold weather
- C. Wildfires spread across forests
- D. Ocean waves flood neighborhoods

3. Why do families prepare emergency supplies before blizzards?

- A. To repair damaged power lines
- B. To stay safer during winter storms
- C. To measure snowfall more easily
- D. To stop snow from blocking roads

4. Why are people told to stay indoors during blizzards?

- A. To protect themselves from dangerous conditions
- B. To help emergency workers clear roads
- C. To prevent snow from melting quickly
- D. To study winter storms more closely

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can blizzards create problems for communities?

6. Describe one way people prepare for blizzards.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “snowdrifts” mean in the passage?

- A. deep piles of blown snow
- B. roads covered with ice
- C. groups of winter clouds
- D. emergency shelters in storms

8. What does the word “frostbite” mean in the passage?

- A. damage caused by extreme cold
- B. melting snow during storms
- C. strong winds near mountains
- D. frozen rain falling from clouds

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how blizzards can affect travel or communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is winter storm preparation important for families and communities?

Answer Key - Passage 9: Blizzards

03_Answer_Key.txt

Answer Key - Passage 9: Blizzards

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 9 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. A

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Blizzards can block roads, damage power lines, and create dangerous travel conditions.

6. Sample Answer:

Families prepare by storing food, blankets, batteries, and flashlights before storms.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. A
8. A

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says roads may become blocked and snowdrifts can trap vehicles during blizzards.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Blizzards

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn how blizzards form, how they affect communities, and how people prepare for dangerous winter storms.

Skills Covered:

- Vocabulary in Context
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Main Idea

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how strong winds and heavy snow create blizzard conditions.
- Ask students to identify dangers caused by snow, ice, and freezing temperatures.
- Encourage students to explain why emergency preparation is important during winter storms.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 10: Heat Waves

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Heat waves are long periods of extremely hot weather that can last for several days or even weeks. During heat waves, temperatures stay much higher than normal for an area. Heat waves can happen in many places around the world and often become more dangerous when there is little wind or rain.



Extreme heat can affect people, animals, and communities in many ways. People may become dehydrated or sick if they spend too much time outside in hot temperatures. Older adults, young children, and pets are especially at risk during heat waves. Hot weather can also dry out plants, increase the risk of wildfires, and place extra pressure on water and electricity systems.

Weather experts monitor temperatures and issue heat warnings when dangerous conditions develop. During heat waves, communities may open cooling centers where people can rest safely in air-conditioned buildings. Emergency workers also encourage people to drink water often and avoid outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day.

Families can prepare for heat waves by staying indoors when possible, wearing light clothing, and checking on older neighbors or relatives. Pets should have plenty of water and shade during hot weather. Learning heat safety rules can help communities stay safer during extreme temperatures.

Although heat waves may not look as dramatic as storms or floods, they can still become serious natural disasters when temperatures remain dangerously high for long periods.

Passage 10 Questions

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Communities open cooling centers during hot weather
 - B. Heat waves can become dangerous for people and communities
 - C. Pets need water and shade during summer months
 - D. Weather experts study temperatures every day
2. What can happen during a heat wave?
 - A. People may become dehydrated in extreme heat
 - B. Rivers freeze during cold weather
 - C. Snow blocks roads and bridges
 - D. Strong winds damage buildings
3. Why are cooling centers important during heat waves?
 - A. They help store emergency supplies
 - B. They provide safe cool places for people
 - C. They measure outdoor temperatures
 - D. They protect roads from heat damage
4. Why should people avoid outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day?
 - A. To reduce traffic near cooling centers
 - B. To help emergency workers during storms
 - C. To prevent heat-related illnesses
 - D. To conserve electricity during summer

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why can heat waves create problems for communities?

6. Describe one way families can stay safer during heat waves.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. What does the word “dehydrated” mean in the passage?

- A. becoming too cold from weather
- B. losing too much water from the body
- C. staying indoors during storms
- D. feeling tired after exercise

8. What does the word “extreme” mean in the passage?

- A. very strong or severe
- B. slow and difficult to notice
- C. cold and uncomfortable
- D. wet from heavy rain

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Write one detail from the passage that explains how heat waves can affect people or communities.

Part 5: Writing

10. Why is it important for communities to prepare for heat waves?

Answer Key - Passage 10: Heat Waves

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 10 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Heat waves can cause dehydration, stress water systems, and increase wildfire risks.

6. Sample Answer:

Families can stay indoors, drink water often, and wear light clothing during heat waves.

Part 3: Vocabulary

7. B
8. A

Part 4: Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

The passage says extreme heat can affect water systems and increase wildfire risks.

Part 5: Writing

10. Answers will vary.

Natural Disasters Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Heat Waves

Grade Level:

4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn how heat waves affect people and communities and how safety plans help reduce dangers during extreme heat.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea and Details
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Vocabulary in Context
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how extreme heat affects health and communities.
- Ask students to identify ways families stay safe during heat waves.
- Encourage students to explain why cooling centers are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

RI.4.4

W.4.2

W.4.8

L.4.4