

Vocabulary Worksheet: Natural Disasters

Section 1: Matching

Directions: Read each term, find the matching definition in the lettered list below, and write the letter of the correct definition in the "Your Answer" column.

Number	Term	Your Answer (blank ____)
1	earthquake	
2	tornado	
3	flood	
4	hurricane	
5	drought	
6	landslide	
7	wildfire	
8	tsunami	
9	blizzard	
10	volcanic eruption	

- A. a large amount of water covering land that is usually dry
- B. a sudden shaking of the ground
- C. a storm with strong winds and heavy rain
- D. a large ocean wave caused by an earthquake
- E. a fire in a forest or grassland
- F. a storm with snow and strong winds
- G. a period of time with little or no rain
- H. a rapid flow of rock and soil down a slope
- I. a rotating column of air that touches the ground
- J. an explosion from a mountain that sends ash and lava into the air
- K. none of the above

Section 2: Fill in the Blank

Word Bank

drought	earthquake	flood	
hurricane	landslide	wildfire	
blizzard	tsunami	tornado	
volcanic eruption			

Use the Word Bank to complete each sentence by filling in the blank.

1. A _____ is a natural disaster that causes a lot of water to cover land.
2. A _____ can cause the ground to shake violently.
3. A _____ occurs when there is not enough rainfall for a long time.
4. A _____ spins and can destroy buildings in its path.
5. A _____ happens when a large amount of snow falls during a storm.
6. A _____ occurs when rocks and soil move quickly down a hill.
7. A _____ is a large wave that can flood coastal areas.
8. A _____ is a fast-moving fire in areas with a lot of plants.

Section 3: Circle the Correct Word

Directions: Read each sentence, notice that two words are in parentheses, and circle the word that makes the sentence correct.

1. The (earthquake, flood) caused many buildings to collapse.
2. A (tsunami, hurricane) can be very dangerous for coastal cities.
3. The (wildfire, drought) destroyed many trees in the forest.
4. A (blizzard, landslide) can make driving very difficult.
5. The (tornado, volcanic eruption) blew away many homes in the area.
6. A (hurricane, flood) can lead to significant damage and loss of life.

Section 4: Use the Word in a Sentence

Directions: Pick three words from the Word Bank and write a sentence that shows you know what each word means.

Section 5: Picture the Word

Directions: Pick one word from the Word Bank, draw a picture that shows what the word means, and then write one sentence about your picture.

Drawing Box

Teacher Implementation Guide

Pre-Teach (2–3 min): Read each word aloud, have students repeat, give a one-line meaning.

Independent Work (10–12 min): Students complete Sections 1–3.

Partner Check (3 min): Students compare Section 1–3 answers and flag disagreements.

Whole-Class Review: Resolve contested items by asking students to justify from sentence context or definition.

Productive Use: Students complete Sections 4 and 5 independently.

Spaced Retrieval: Reuse 3–4 words in next week's Do Now, exit ticket, or warm-up.