



Fighting the cyclones

Every year, natural disasters affect about 250 million people and global warming is making droughts, floods and avalanches more common. Sadly, we can't stop the disasters, but we can reduce the number of people who die in them. In Bangladesh, a lot of people have to live on flat land near the sea, but the cyclones there bring terrible floods. In 1970, Cyclone Bhola killed about 500,000 people. A _____ In 1991, the even stronger Cyclone Gorky hit the country. This time, people could use special school buildings as emergency shelters. Unfortunately, many women and children didn't go to them and around 140,000 people drowned.

After this, villages set up groups of emergency volunteers and teachers had to talk to children every week about the things which they should do if there was a cyclone warning. They didn't have to wait many years for the next big cyclone. B _____ Twelve hours before Cyclone Sidr reached land, a Bangladeshi scientist in the USA calculated the exact areas of danger on a computer. The emergency volunteers in the villages spread the warning fast. Ten-year-old Rupa Begum and her friends ran to all their neighbours' homes.

C _____ 'You won't be safe if you stay here.' All the buildings in the village were destroyed in the cyclone except for the school shelter. But because of the children's warnings, everyone in the village survived.

D Four thousand people died in Cyclone Sidr. But this was a much smaller number than in the big cyclones of the twentieth century. With modern technology, planning and education, we don't have to lose huge numbers of lives in natural disasters.

Match sentences (1–4) to gaps (A–D) in the article

- 1 It came in 2007.
- 2 Not everyone in Bangladesh was so lucky.
- 3 It was one of the worst natural disasters of the twentieth century.
- 4 'You must come to the school now,' they shouted.

Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Because of global warming, there are more natural disasters now than there were in the past. _____
2. The cyclone in 1991 was stronger than the cyclone in 1970. _____
3. The cyclone in 1991 killed more people than the cyclone in 1970. _____
4. In 1991, there was nowhere safe for women and children to go. _____
5. These days, emergency volunteers go to schools to warn the children about cyclones. _____
6. A scientist in the USA helped to save lives in Cyclone Sidr. _____
7. The buildings in Rupa's village survived because of the cyclone warning. _____
8. Many more people survived Cyclone Sidr than the cyclones of 1970 and 1991. _____

Listening

Listen to a conversation about climate change. For questions 1–5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- 1 The woman gives an example of extreme weather which occurred in
 - A the southern USA.
 - B Britain.
 - C Canada.
 - D Mexico.
- 2 The speaker doesn't give an example of record-breaking
 - A hot weather.
 - B dry weather.
 - C cold weather.
 - D wet weather.
- 3 The speaker says climate change will lead to
 - A increases in temperatures everywhere.
 - B changes in the type of weather different places get.
 - C richer countries becoming poorer.
 - D more extreme weather all over the world.
- 4 One possible effect of global warming and changes to the Gulf Stream is that
 - A Britain's weather won't change.
 - B Britain will become much warmer.
 - C Britain will become much drier.
 - D Britain will become much wetter.
- 5 The aim of the radio show is to
 - A discuss ways that governments can fight climate change.
 - B listen to someone who has experienced extreme weather.
 - C decide whether extreme weather events are more common nowadays.
 - D criticise people who do not believe that climate change is caused by humans.

Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There are two words you don't need.

burst	crack	drought	evacuate	hurricane	predict	reduce	strike	wave
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- 1 Scientists try to _____ when volcanoes might erupt.
- 2 Weather forecasters try to warn people when a tornado is likely to _____.
- 3 The river might _____ its banks if the rain continues.
- 4 During a _____, crops often die because of the lack of rain.
- 5 There was a _____, with winds of up to 180 km an hour.
- 6 A tsunami followed the earthquake, and a huge _____ hit the coastal area.
- 7 The new sea defences will _____ the risk of flooding.

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 It's important to recycle / produce paper so that it doesn't end up on rubbish tips.
- 2 The increased use of cars leads to air quality / pollution in cities.
- 3 We've installed some solar panels / energy on the roof.
- 4 The ice in Antarctica is producing / melting because of climate change.
- 5 Wind power is a kind of renewable / endangered energy.
- 6 Global / Organic food is grown without chemicals.
- 7 Polar bears are now an endangered / illegal species.

Complete the sentences with a, an, the or – (no article).

- 1 I wanted to be _____ firefighter when I was a child.
- 2 Vatican City is _____ smallest country in the world.
- 3 The company has invented a new kind of vacuum cleaner and everyone hopes they will present _____ machine at their annual conference.
- 4 We live in _____ 21st century.
- 5 I think that _____ people will live longer in the future.
- 6 Liam wants to discuss an urgent issue with me, but he hasn't told me what _____ issue is.
- 7 My uncle lives in _____ Switzerland.
- 8 There's _____ island in the middle of the lake.
- 9 Wow! Look at _____ Moon!
- 10 There were floods last year in _____ Netherlands.

Complete the sentences with the correct relative pronouns.

- 1 John, _____ had never been interested in the environment, suddenly joined Greenpeace.
- 2 The price of kale, _____ is a vegetable similar to wild cabbage, has doubled over the last couple of years.
- 3 You can get to the island by ferry in about 10 minutes, _____ is very convenient for tourists.
- 4 Jo, _____ grandfather was a tribal chief, wants to learn more about Native Americans.
- 5 A national newspaper has just chosen Solihull, _____ I grew up, as the best place to live.

Use the information in brackets to add a non-defining clause to each sentence. Start and finish with the words provided.

- 1 Next month I'm going to Tokyo with Jenny. (Her father is Japanese.)
Next month _____ Japanese.
- 2 Ann and Phil are starting a new environmental project. (They have worked together for ten years.)
Ann and Phil, _____ environmental project.
- 3 The book tells the story of a group of people living on a desert island. (They have a lot of adventures there.)
The book _____ adventures.
- 4 Central Park is one of my favourite places. (It is in the middle of Manhattan.)
Central Park, _____ favourite places.
- 5 The documentary about polar bears has won many awards. (It was on Channel 1 last night.)
The documentary _____ many awards.