LESSON 3

12 **Read the article *Earthquakes* on page 56 in the Student's Book again. Check the statements that are true. Correct the false statements.**

EXTRA READING COMPREHENSION

- ☐ 1. The most catastrophic earthquake recorded was in Sumatra.
- ☐ 2. Severe earthquakes cause casualties, damage to property, and serious economic consequences.
- ☐ 3. The tsunami in 2004 was caused by an earthquake.
- ☐ 4. Earthquakes with a magnitude of over 6 on the Richter Scale are generally moderate.
- ☐ 5. Location can determine the severity of an earthquake just as much as magnitude.
- ☐ 6. Older-style buildings are safer than modern buildings.
- ☐ 7. Earthquakes that happen when people are outdoors usually have a higher death toll.

13 **Rate the following adjectives from 1 to 5, 1 being the worst.**

_____ severe
_____ mild
_____ deadly
_____ catastrophic
_____ moderate

Did you know?

- Four out of five of the world's earthquakes take place along the rim of the Pacific Ocean, a zone called the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- Most earthquakes last a minute or less.
- Each year, there are about a million earthquakes around the world. Only about 100 of these cause serious damage.

14 Read an article about storm chasing. Then check true, false, or no information for each question.

STORM CHASERS

Tornadoes. Hurricanes. Enormous storms. Just reading these words makes people imagine catastrophic events that can cause countless injuries and severe damages. No one looks forward to weather reports or breaking news that announce these natural disasters. No one, except a small group of about 100 people known as "storm chasers."

Who are these people, and what do they do? A storm chaser is a person who tries to get as close to a severe storm as possible. A few storm chasers are scientists who want to learn more about storms and how they develop. They want to be able to learn more so that someday they can better predict when and where storms will occur. With more information, they could help people avoid the catastrophic destruction and high casualties that often happen when huge storms hit. Others are professional photographers, movie makers, or TV reporters. Some are tour guides who take people close to the center of a storm as part of an adventure vacation. Most are just people who are fascinated by nature and chase storms as a hobby.

Storm chasers travel thousands of miles a week in cars loaded with laptops, cameras, videos, emergency supplies, and a lot of scientific equipment. The most famous storm chases occur in the springtime in an area called Tornado Alley. It is in the Great Plains states of the United States—such as Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Texas—where severe storms and tornadoes frequently happen.

Storm chasers study weather data and look closely at the sky to guess the timing and location of storms as they form. They hope to be there when a tornado forms and to follow it as it touches ground. If they are lucky, they will catch a tornado at least once in every five to ten trips.

In 1996, the thriller *Twister* introduced storm chasing to moviegoers. Since then, a lot of people have been fascinated by the topic. There have been TV shows, documentaries, and hundreds of books written about this exciting "sport."

But storm chasing is not for everyone. It is a dangerous hobby. Roads are often wet and dangerous to drive; severe floods can wash away cars; hailstorms can cause injuries and damage to cars; and lightning storms can cause casualties. So why do storm chasers do it? They say that it is amazingly fun, exciting, and always enormously beautiful.

	true	false	no information
1. Storm chasers look for opportunities to study and photograph huge storms.	☐	☐	☐
2. There are a lot of women storm chasers.	☐	☐	☐
3. There are over 1,000 people who are storm chasers.	☐	☐	☐
4. Storm chasers look forward to tornadoes.	☐	☐	☐
5. Storm chasers know exactly when a tornado will hit a town.	☐	☐	☐
6. There are TV shows about storm chasing.	☐	☐	☐
7. *Twister* is the best movie about storm chasing.	☐	☐	☐
8. Storm chasing is easy.	☐	☐	☐