NATURAL DISASTERS

Vocabulary & Reading Challenge — Student Edition

Student Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

SECTION 1: VOCABULARY CHALLENGE

1. Match the words from the bank with their definitions:

Word Bank: epidemic | tsunami | avalanche | forest fire | hurricane

1. A situation in which a disease spreads very quickly: _____
2. A very large wave caused by an underwater earthquake: _____
3. A large amount of snow and ice falling down a mountain: _____
4. A situation in which a large area with trees burns: _____
5. A violent storm with extremely strong winds and heavy rain: _____

2. Multiple Choice Vocabulary:

1. Hundreds of _____ left their homes.

[ ] A) tremors [ ] B) refugees [ ] C) aftershocks

2. The volcano threw up a cloud of _____.

[ ] A) ash [ ] B) casualties [ ] C) drought

3. Workers cleared the _____ of buildings.

[ ] A) epidemic [ ] B) banks [ ] C) debris

4. Small tremors followed the _____.

[ ] A) avalanche [ ] B) earthquake [ ] C) flood

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words:

evacuate | spread | head | ash | casualties | burst

1. We need to _____ the area immediately.
2. A hurricane is quickly _____ across the ocean.
3. Experts think the hurricane is _____ towards land.
4. The disease is _____ quickly among the population.
5. Nothing was left after the fire, only _____ .
6. Heavy rainfall caused three major rivers to _____ their banks.

4. Complete the Collocations in Context:

1. Firefighters have been working hard to _____ fires.
2. The earthquake caused severe structural _____ to buildings.
3. Molten lava started coming down the side of the volcano, _____ towards the village.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SECTION 2: READING PASSAGE

TSUNAMI! A 21st century survival solution

The 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and the tsunami that followed count as one of the worst natural disasters of the 21st century. When the earthquake struck with a force of magnitude 9, it was the most powerful ever to hit Japan. In anticipation of a similar disaster, an American company called Survival Capsules LLC turned their design for a sphere to protect people from both fire and flood into reality.

According to Julian Sharpe, president of the company, the tsunami was a terrible learning experience. The evacuation towers turned out to be far too low for the 40-metre high wave, resulting in nearly 16,000 deaths. Sharpe came up with the idea while on holiday in Oregon in 2004, noticing that flat coastal slopes make it impossible to reach high ground fast enough.

The spherical capsule ranges from a 2-person model (1.4m diameter) up to 10 adults. Built by aircraft engineers, it features water containers, GPS, 60 minutes of oxygen, seats, and mobile phone access. If sea levels rise, the tether line lengthens or disconnects, allowing the capsule to float safely on top of deep water.

SECTION 3: READING COMPREHENSION

A. Multiple Choice:

1. Julian Sharpe thinks the problem in Japan in 2011 was that people:

[ ] a) made no plans [ ] b) were not ready for its size [ ] c) didn't know where to go

2. Sharpe had his initial idea when he:

[ ] a) was in Indonesia in 2004 [ ] b) saw a sphere floating [ ] c) realized slopes make escape difficult

B. True (T) or False (F) & Correction:

1. The Tōhoku earthquake struck Japan with a magnitude force of 7. [ ]

2. The capsules provide 60 minutes of oxygen inside for survivors. [ ]

C. Answer in Full Sentences:

1. What is the main purpose of the Survival Capsule?

2. How does the tether line work when water levels rise?

D. Find words in the text for these definitions:

1. An event from which you gain knowledge: _____

2. Moves back or away from a high level (water): _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS