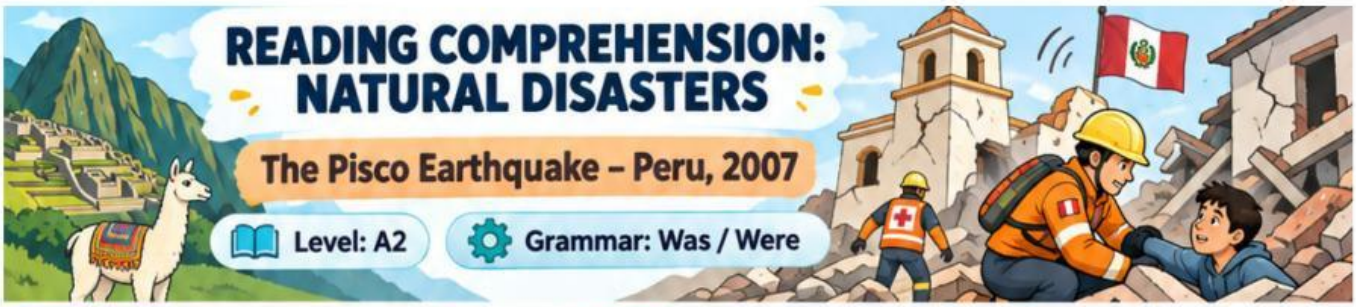

READING COMPREHENSION: NATURAL DISASTERS

The Pisco Earthquake – Peru, 2007

Level: A2 | Grammar: Was / Were

1. PRE-READING

A. Look and discuss.

- What natural disaster can you see?
- How were the people feeling?
- Were the buildings in good condition?
- Was the city safe?
- What do you know about the Pisco earthquake?

B. Match the vocabulary with its meaning.

Vocabulary	Meaning
1. Earthquake	A. Without a home.
2. Frightened	B. A sudden movement of the ground.
3. Destroyed	C. People who help others in danger.
4. Homeless	D. Very afraid.
5. Rescue workers	E. Protected from danger.
6. Safe	F. Completely damaged.

C. Predict.

Read the title of the text and predict what it is about.

- ☐ a. A beautiful city in Peru.
- ☐ b. A natural disaster and its consequences.
- ☐ c. A traditional Peruvian celebration.



2. WHILE-READING

The Day the Earth Shook: Pisco, 2007

It was Wednesday, August 15, 2007. It was approximately 6:40 p.m. when a powerful earthquake struck Peru. The magnitude was 8.0. Pisco, Ica and Chincha were among the most affected cities.

The situation was terrible. Many houses, schools and churches were destroyed. The streets were full of debris, and many buildings were not safe. People were frightened and confused.

Thousands of families were homeless, and many people were injured. Food, clean water and medicine were essential. It was not easy for the affected families.

Firefighters, doctors and volunteess were there to help the victims. Their support was very important. Many Peruvians were united during this difficult time.

The Pisco earthquake was a tragic event, but it was also an important lesson about solidarity, safety and disaster preparedness.

Activity 4. Skimming – Read for general information.

1 What is the main idea of the text?

- ☐ a. The tourist attractions of Pisco.
- ☐ b. The Pisco earthquake and its consequences.
- ☐ c. The daily activities of firefighters.

2 What is the best alternative title?

- ☐ a. A Wonderful Day in Pisco.
- ☐ b. A Traditional Festival in Peru.
- ☐ c. A Tragic Day in Peruvian History.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING COMPREHENSION: NATURAL DISASTERS

The Pisco Earthquake – Peru, 2007

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3. COMPREHENSION AND GRAMMAR

Activity 5. Scanning – Find specific information.

Read the text again and complete the chart.

Questions	Answers
When was the earthquake?	_____
What time was it?	_____
What was its magnitude?	_____
Which cities were affected?	_____
How were the people feeling?	_____
Who were there to help?	_____

Activity 6. Read and write True (T) or False (F).

Correct the false statements.

1. The earthquake was in 2007.	____
2. The magnitude was 5.0.	____
3. The people were frightened.	____
4. All the buildings were safe.	____
5. Many families were homeless.	____
6. Firefighters and volunteers were there to help.	____
7. Solidarity was not important.	____

Activity 7. Inferential comprehension.

Read the text and answer in your own words.

1. Why were the people frightened?
   _____
2. Why were many families homeless?
   _____
3. Why were food and water essential?
   _____
4. Why was the support of volunteers important?
   _____
5. Why was the earthquake an important lesson for Peruvians?
   _____

Activity 8. Grammar focus – *Was and Were*

WAS	WERE
I / He / She / It	You / We / They
• The earthquake was powerful.	• The people were frightened.
• The city wasn't safe.	• The streets weren't safe.
• **Was** the city safe?	• **Were** the people frightened?

Complete the sentences with *was, were, wasn't or weren't* according to the reading.

1. The earthquake _____ in August 2007.
2. The people _____ frightened.
3. The magnitude _____ 8.0.
4. Many families _____ homeless.
5. The damaged buildings _____ safe.
6. The situation _____ easy.
7. The firefighters _____ there to help.
8. Solidarity _____ very important.

4. POST-READING

Activity 9. Critical thinking.

- Was Pisco prepared for a powerful earthquake?
- Why was solidarity important during this disaster?
- What can we learn from the Pisco earthquake?
- Is your community prepared for an earthquake today?

Activity 10. Production – A news report

Imagine you are a news reporter in Pisco in 2007. Write a short news report using was, were, wasn't and weren't.

Writing model:

Yesterday was a terrible day in Pisco. The earthquake was very powerful. The people were frightened. Many houses were destroyed. The streets weren't safe, but firefighters and volunteers were there to help.

Now it's your turn! Write 6–8 sentences.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Activity 11. Self-assessment

I can ...	Yes	Not yet
• I can identify the main idea of the text.	☐	☐
• I can find specific information.	☐	☐
• I can make inferences from the reading.	☐	☐
• I can use was and were correctly.	☐	☐
• I can reflect on the importance of disaster preparedness.	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS