

# THE MYSTERIOUS ISLE

Read the text and choose the word that best fits the gap.

In the early morning of 23 January, 2009, the most powerful storm for a decade hit western France. With wind speeds in (1)\_\_\_\_\_ of 120 miles per hour, it flattened forests, (2)\_\_\_\_\_ down power lines and caused massive destruction to buildings and roads. But it also left behind an extraordinary creation. Seven miles out to sea at the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ where the Atlantic Ocean meets the estuary of the River Gironde, a small island had (4)\_\_\_\_\_ out of the water. Locals soon gave it the name "The Mysterious Isle." What was so remarkable, (5)\_\_\_\_\_ its sudden apparition, was the fact that the island (6)\_\_\_\_\_ intact in what is often quite a hostile sea environment. It could well become a permanent (7)\_\_\_\_\_.

Scientists quickly realized the the island's appearance (8)\_\_\_\_\_ a unique opportunity to study the creation and development of a new ecosystem. Within months, it had been colonized by seabirds, insects and vegetation.

