Disasters

LESSON SUMMARY

Vocabulary

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Example
typhoon (n) /taɪˈfuːn/	a tropical storm that often causes huge damage	A **typhoon** is on its way to the city.
earthquake (n) /ˈɜːrθkweɪk/	a strong, unexpected shaking of the earth's surface	There will be an **earthquake** according to the weather forecast.
tsunami (n) /tsuːˈnɑːmi/ also **tidal wave**	a huge wave that often comes after an earthquake	A **tsunami** can destroy everything on its way.
flood (n) /flʌd/	a large amount of water covering an area that is usually dry	The **flood** caused serious damage to our house.
wildfire (n) /ˈwaɪldfaɪr/	a large fire burning natural areas like woods, forests and grassland	A campfire can cause a **wildfire**.
blizzard (n) /ˈblɪzərd/	a snowstorm with powerful wind	Many people got stuck in the **blizzard** for five hours.
heat wave (n) /ˈhiːtweɪv/	a period of unusually hot weather	A long summer **heat wave** can cause crops to die.
drought (n) /draʊt/	a long period when there is little or no rain	A severe **drought** can cause plants, trees and animals to die.
landslide (n) /ˈlændslaɪd/ also **landfall**	a fall of earth or rocks down a hill or cliff	Floods can cause a **landslide**.
avalanche (n) /ˈævəlæntʃ/ also **snowslide**	a large amount of snow, ice and rocks that falls down the side of a mountain	Yesterday's **avalanche** killed a party of skiers.

Grammar

Wh- questions

We can use Wh- **questions** to ask for detailed information about an action or event.

Wh- questions	Answers
What was the biggest earthquake?	It was the Great Chilean Earthquake.
Where was the tallest tsunami?	It was in Lituya Bay, Alaska, the US.
When was the worst flood?	It was in 1938.
How wide was the wildfire?	It was fifty five million acres.
How tall was the tidal wave?	It was about thirty meters.
How long was the drought?	It was more than six months.
How many people died in the earthquake?	More than 830,000 people died.
How much damage did the landslide cause?	The landslide destroyed everything.

Pronunciation

◆ Sound change of *was*

"... *was* ..." often sounds like /wəz/.

What was he doing at eight yesterday evening?
   /wəz/

◆ Pronouncing /ʌ/ and /uː/

/ʌ/		/uː/	
• flood /flʌd/	• country /ˈkʌntri/	• typhoon /taɪˈfuːn/	• blue /bluː/
• jump /dʒʌmp/	• another /əˈnʌðər/	• who /huː/	• noon /nuːn/

PRACTICE

Pronunciation

Circle the word that has the underlined part pronounced differently from the others.

1 A m<u>o</u>nth   B <u>o</u>ther   C st<u>o</u>mach   D m<u>o</u>ve
2 A fl<u>oo</u>d   B f<u>oo</u>d   C typh<u>oo</u>n   D m<u>oo</u>n
3 A n<u>u</u>t   B m<u>u</u>d   C r<u>u</u>le   D c<u>u</u>t
4 A b<u>oo</u>t   B sp<u>oo</u>n   C g<u>oo</u>d   D z<u>oo</u>
5 A th<u>u</u>nder   B h<u>u</u>ndred   C s<u>u</u>dden   D J<u>u</u>ne

Vocabulary

a. Match the words or phrases to their definitions.

1	a flood	A	Heavy rains cause this to happen.
2	a drought	B	This is a typical storm in tropical regions.
3	a typhoon	C	This is the violent shaking of the earth's surface.
4	a heat wave	D	This happens when there is unusually hot weather.
5	an earthquake	E	Plants, trees and animals die because of this long period with no rain.

b. Complete the text using the words in the boxes.

avalanche	typhoon	landslide	tsunami	blizzard

Welcome back to Radio Weather News. There were a lot of natural events yesterday. Cars, motorbikes and other vehicles got stuck in a **6)** _____ on the west side of the city because of heavy snowfall and a big storm on the highway. In the mountain range, there was a(n) **7)** _____ . A mass of ice fell down a slope and caused three people to be injured. Yesterday there was also a **8)** _____ on the east side of the city. Its violent winds knocked all the trees down and caused **9)** a(n) _____ , which blocked many roads. Besides, the earthquake in the ocean caused a **10)** _____ on the east coast. What a day of disaster!

Grammar

a. Circle the correct options.

1　Kate: _____ did the tsunami destroy? - Jack: The whole village.
　　A Where　　　　**B** Which　　　　**C** What　　　　**D** Why

2　Jim: _____ was the wave? - Ann: About 10 meters tall.
　　A How much　　**B** How many　　**C** How long　　**D** How tall

3　Alex: _____ did the earthquake hit the city? - Tom: At midnight.
　　A When　　　　**B** What　　　　**C** Where　　　　**D** How

4　Kim: _____ was the the biggest wildfire? - Ted: In Western Montana, the US.
　　A Which　　　　**B** Where　　　　**C** What　　　　**D** How

5　Ben: _____ did the blizzard cause across the city? - Rosie: A power cut.
　　A Which　　　　**B** How　　　　**C** What　　　　**D** Why

b. Circle ONE mistake in each sentence.

6　How much damage did the avalanche caused?
　　A　　B　　　　　C　　　　　　　D

7　How much people got hurt in the tsunami?
　　　A　　　　B　C　　　　D

8　What was you doing when the earthquake hit the city?
　　A　　B　　C　　　　　　　　　　　D

9　Ann: "How tall was the wave?" – Ted: "It was over 20 meters long."
　　　　A　　　B　　　　　　　　　C　　　　　　　D

10　Andy: "How many did it take to stop the fire?" – Ben: "About 3 hours."
　　　A　　B　　C　　　　　　　　　D

Reading

a. Read the text about the weather in the UK. Write T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

Extreme weather in the UK

The UK is not only famous for its beauty but also for extreme weather. Strong winds and storms are examples of severe weather. Those conditions can cause damage to buildings and houses. They can also be dangerous to people. Another example of extreme conditions is drought. Droughts are periods of dry weather. They often happen when there is a lack of rainfall over a long period. They can heavily affect the supply of water and can destroy crops. Floods are also an issue in the UK. Too much rainfall often causes floods in a short period of time. Floods cause damage to houses and buildings, washing away roads and vehicles. People sometimes lose their lives in floods.

According to scientists, global climate change will cause hotter and wetter weather in the UK in the 21st century. Heatwave is a problem in the UK due to climate change. The shocking temperature of the heat wave is the result of greenhouse gases. It causes people to work from home and students to study remotely. Trains become dangerous because the railway can expand and bend in the heat. People might see such extreme heat waves every three years if they continue to produce greenhouse gases.

1　The UK is well-known for its extreme weather.　　　　_____

2　Storms in the UK can destroy crops.　　　　_____

3　Floods can happen quickly when there is an excessive amount of rain.　　　　_____

4　Floods in the UK always take life.　　　　_____

5　People in the UK must work from home when there is a heat wave .　　　　_____

b. Read the text again. Answer each question with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER.

6 What affects the supply of water? _____
7 What causes floods in a short period of time? _____
8 How will the weather in the UK in the 21ˢᵗ century be? _____
9 What is the result of greenhouse gases? _____
10 How often will the heat waves happen if people keep producing greenhouse gases? _____

Speaking

Read the information about the Great Kanto Earthquake and answer the questions.

1 Where was the Great Kanto Earthquake?
2 When was the Great Kanto Earthquake?
3 How many people in Tokyo became homeless after the earthquake?
4 What did the Great Kanto Earthquake cause in the bay?
5 How tall was the tsunami caused by the Great Kanto Earthquake?

The Great Kanto Earthquake
- Japan, 1923
- A total of 1.38 million people in Tokyo became homeless.
- caused a 39-foot high tsunami in the bay

Writing

a. Put the words in the correct order to make complete sentences.

1 Russia / in / was / The / 2021. / biggest / in / wildfire
_____

2 Chile / May 1960. / hit / The / Great Chilean Earthquake / in
_____

3 four / hundred / At least / died / the / flood. / in / people
_____

4 The / 12 meters / high. / tsunami / was
_____

5 This / is / the / worst / typhoons / one / of / in / history. / American
_____

b. Make questions for the underlined words.

6 <u>Thirteen people</u> got injured in the typhoon.
_____

7 The avalanche took place <u>in the early morning</u>.
_____

8 The blizzard destroyed <u>cereal crops</u> in China.
_____

9 The tsunami took place <u>in the northern coast of the US</u>.
_____

10 People avoided going outside <u>because of the heat wave</u>.
_____

Answer key

- Pronunciation ____/10 pts.
- Vocabulary ____/20 pts.
- Grammar ____/20 pts.
- Reading ____/20 pts.
- Speaking ____/10 pts.
- Writing ____/20 pts.

Total ____ / 100 pts.

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