Environment: Natural Disasters

A. Match the words to the correct definition.

a Blow down (v) **b** Condense (v) **c** Dam (n) **d** Disaster (n) **e** Disrupt (v)
f Drown (v) **g** Evaporate (v) **h** Reduce (v) **i** Shock (n) **j** Warning (n)

*v = verb * n = noun

1. A statement telling people of a possible problem or danger _____
2. A very bad event that causes lots of damage or kills a lot of people _____
3. A wall built across a river to stop the water _____
4. Something bad that happens unexpectedly and surprises you _____
5. The process when a gas changes into a liquid _____
6. The process when a liquid (e.g. water) changes into a gas _____
7. To go under water and die _____
8. To interrupt or prevent something from continuing _____
9. To make something smaller or less in size _____
10. When a strong wind makes something fall over _____

B. Listen to Listen to track 1 and 2 and complete the information.

TRACK 1: HURRICANES

1. **What are they?**
   Tropical _____ with strong winds. They start at sea, and can travel a long distance. They have different names in different places: 'hurricanes' in the Atlantic Ocean, 'typhoons' in the Pacific Ocean, 'tropical _____' in the Indian Ocean and around Australasia. Tornadoes, or whirlwinds, are similar, but begin over land.
2. **Why do they happen?**
   The water evaporates from the warm sea. This condenses in the atmosphere. More and more hot, wet air rises up. It becomes a strong _____.
3. **Where do they happen?**
   Over the _____ parts of oceans. Tornadoes are common in parts of the U.S.A, Australia, and Japan.
4. **How do they affect people?**
   They can affect ships, blow down houses, cause _____ and disrupt traffic.

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5. **What can people do?**
   _____ can usually track hurricanes, but they cannot stop them.

TRACK 2: FLOODS

1. **What are they?**
   The water in rivers, lakes or the ocean rises above its normal _____ and goes onto the land.
2. **Why do they happen?**
   If there is a lot of _____, or very strong winds, floods can happen.
3. **Where do they happen?**
   Some rivers in Bangladesh and India flood every year. People expect it, so there is no panic. When the floods go down, there are lots of _____ in the soil. They can grow good plants.
4. **How do they affect people?**
   When the floods are a surprise, many people can _____. Every year, people lose their houses and their furniture. When floods happen every year, some people are ready for them. But many people (and governments) do not _____ properly.
5. **What can people do?**
   Dams can reduce floods but some dams can cause them! There are often 'flood _____' on the radio.

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