INSTRUMENTO DE MEDICIÓN SUMATIVA - 1 - **Worksheet 3-**

2nd Part: Reading Task

2A. Read the following information about natural disasters. Then answer questions 1–7.

"Natural Disasters."

Our planet can be a calm place, but weather conditions often change rapidly. Gentle breezes can blow into fierce and howling winds. Light snow flurries can become ferocious winter storms. Gentle rains can turn into flooding downpours. The weather can be very powerful. A natural disaster is a weather-related event that creates dangerous and destructive conditions. It is important to learn about natural disasters so you can be prepared if you face one. There are several kinds of natural disasters that may occur in the United States each year, and each one poses significant dangers.

Hurricanes

A hurricane is a huge storm that forms over warm ocean water. Bands of thunderstorms form and swirl around and around because of the rotation of the earth. As more and more thunderstorms form, the hurricane gets bigger and bigger. A hurricane is one of the world's worst storms because it can last for days or weeks. Hurricanes can also be very large. They may cover hundreds of miles and affect large areas of land. For a storm to be classified as a hurricane, wind speeds within the storm have to reach at least 74 miles per hour. But hurricane winds can reach speeds of over 155 miles per hour! A large amount of destruction may occur with winds that strong. Roofs may be torn off houses. Buildings may be flattened. Trees topple over. Hurricanes are deadly, but not just because of their winds. They can also produce very heavy rains and huge waves that slam into the coastline. Hurricanes are very common along the east coast of the United States. Here, wind, waves, and rain do the most damage. However, since hurricanes are so large, people who live 100 miles inland may also feel the effects of the wind and rain and sustain damage to their property. Luckily, meteorologists (people who study weather) can forecast hurricanes days in advance by using radar technology. Radar is a little bit like a moving picture. It shows how big storms are and which way they are moving. Radar images give people time to prepare for a coming storm. If the storm is very strong, home and business owners will put up plywood to protect their glass windows and doors. People who live along the coast will evacuate. They'll go to a hurricane shelter or stay with friends and relatives who live in safer places farther inland. Many lives are saved every year by people who take the necessary precautions.

Tornadoes

Nothing is more frightening than a tornado. A tornado is a huge tower of moist, warm circling air. It usually develops during a strong thunderstorm. A column of clouds will form and reach down toward the ground. This is called a funnel cloud. It becomes a tornado when the cloud reaches the ground. Tornadoes move at a high rate of speed and usually destroy buildings, trees, and anything else in their path. While a tornado is turning, it can also suck large objects into it, such as houses and cars. Wind speeds in a tornado may reach 300 miles per hour! Luckily, almost 70 percent of tornadoes are categorized as "weak" tornadoes with winds less than 110 miles per hour. Weak tornadoes usually last only 1–10 minutes, compared with hurricanes that can last for days or weeks. Still, these storms can do a lot of damage. Tornadoes are most common in the Midwestern United States where the land is flat. But,

LIVEWORKSHEETS

wherever there is a strong thunderstorm, a tornado can occur. In 1984, for example, there were 22 tornadoes that formed from thunderstorms near the east coast in North and South Carolina. These tornadoes killed almost 60 people and injured over 1,000. Unlike hurricanes, tornadoes are not easy to predict. People may only have a few minutes of warning when a tornado forms in their area. Usually, forecasters will place an area under a "tornado watch," stating that tornadoes may be possible. If you experience a strong thunderstorm and see dark clouds (almost greenish in color) and large hail, these are indicators that a tornado may form. You should go to the basement of your home and stay away from windows. If you do not have a basement, go to a room in the interior of your house. It is also wise to cover your head because tornadoes can whip objects through the air at great speeds.

Blizzards

A blizzard is a dangerous winter storm that combines blowing snow and wind. It usually results in low visibility. That is a measure of the distance you can see clearly. In blizzards, it is possible to look outside your window and see only a wall of white! Meteorologists call this a "white out." In order to be classified as a blizzard, a storm must have winds greater than 35 miles per hour and visibility less than 1/4 of a mile for at least three hours. This means that you are unable to see more than 1/4 of a mile in front of you. That is the distance around one lap of a running track. On a clear day, you can see for miles and miles, especially if the land is flat. It is interesting to note that a storm doesn't need to occur for a blizzard to form. Strong winds can pick up snow already on the ground to create a ground blizzard with blowing snow. Forecasters can predict blizzards most of the time. They will put out a "blizzard warning" for the areas where these conditions are anticipated. Blizzards happen most often in the upper Midwest and the Great Plains of the United States. However, they can occur in any place that receives snowfall. Blizzards are dangerous for several reasons. Driving a car or truck can be hazardous in the slippery snow and ice, and may become impossible since it is difficult to see. The strong wind will make the air temperature feel even colder, so frostbite can develop. Frostbite is damage to the skin from exposure to cold. You should stay indoors during a blizzard. Be sure to have plenty of blankets, water, and a battery-powered radio nearby in case the power goes off.

Questions 1–6: Choose the best answer to each question.

1. Which sentence best states the main idea of this passage?

__ A. Our planet can be a calm place, but weather conditions often change rapidly.

__ B. Light snow flurries can become ferocious winter storms.

__ C. It is important to learn about natural disasters to be prepared if you face one.

__ D. There are several kinds of natural disasters that may occur in the United States each year, and each one poses significant dangers.

2. What causes a funnel cloud to form?

___ A. warm air that circles around

__ B. a gathering of dark clouds

___ C. cold air temperatures

__ D. tropical ocean waters

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. In the "Tornadoes" section of the passage, the author includes information about tornadoes in North Carolina and South Carolina in order to _____.

__ A. show that tornadoes do not always occur in the Midwest.

__ B. give examples of tornadoes that are classified as "weak."

__ C. demonstrate how tornadoes can suck cars and houses into their funnels.

__ D. explain what happens when the sky turns green and hail starts to fall.

4. Which sentence states an opinion?

__ A hurricane is a huge storm that forms over warm ocean water.

__ B. In order to be classified as a blizzard, a storm must have winds greater than 35 miles per hour and visibility less than 1/4 of a mile for at least three hours.

__ C. Radar images give people time to prepare for a coming storm.

__ D. Nothing is more frightening than a tornado.

5. "They will put out a 'blizzard warning' for the areas where these conditions are anticipated." What is the meaning of anticipated?

__ A. avoided

__ B. witnessed

__ C. expected

__ D. described

6. In a blizzard, what causes a "white out"?

__ A. heavy rain

__ B. blowing snow

__ C. large hail

__ D. cold temperatures

7. Using details from the passage, describe four differences between hurricanes and tornadoes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS