Name_____

Hurricane Katrina

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the United States' Gulf Coastal area. Winds from the hurricane struck land at 100 to 140 miles per hour. Katrina is estimated to have caused over one hundred billion dollars in damages to areas in the United States.

Why was this hurricane so catastrophic? One reason is the amount of area affected by the storm. The damaging winds reached over four hundred miles across the continent. People in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama all felt the effects of Katrina's raging wind and rain. The storm also caused levees to fail, which led to massive flooding. After the storm, many were left without food, water, or shelter.

As the storm was predicted to approach New Orleans, the mayor issued a mandatory evacuation. For those unable to leave, the city stadium—the Superdome—would be used as a temporary shelter. Despite the evacuation order, many people without funds or transportation were unable to leave. Eventually, some ten thousand people would seek shelter in the Superdome and still others chose to wait out the storm in their own homes despite the order to leave.

Although the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was horrific, many heroes came out of such a terrible tragedy. People risked their lives to save others. People offered what they had to help those in need. Sadly, nearly two thousand people died. The effects of Hurricane Katrina can still be seen today despite the efforts of those hoping to rebuild what was lost.

Text Questions

1. Using information from the text, list two reasons people may have been unable to leave New Orleans once the mandatory evacuation order was given.

   a. _____

   b. _____

2. Using clues from the text, what is the purpose of a levee?
   a. to direct traffic
   b. to control floodwaters
   c. to control levels of radiation
   d. to mandate evacuations

3. Why did the mayor order a mandatory evacuation?
   a. He felt that everyone needed to go on vacation.
   b. He believed the city would be destroyed.
   c. He wanted the city all to himself.
   d. He felt conditions would become unsafe for the people there.

4. After reading this passage, what is one thing that could be done to protect the people of New Orleans in the event of future hurricanes?
   a. Everyone could be given a car so they could more easily evacuate.
   b. The levees could be strengthened to hold back floodwaters.
   c. All people living in New Orleans should move to other cities.
   d. There are no safety measures that could be done to protect from future hurricanes.

5. Which is a synonym for the word *catastrophic* as it is used in the second paragraph?
   a. wonderful
   b. satisfying
   c. majestic
   d. terrible

LIVEWORKSHEETS