

Reading

Natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, occur regularly across the world and often cause immense damage. These disasters not only claim lives but also have long-lasting effects on economies, communities, and ecosystems. They can happen with little to no warning, leaving governments and citizens scrambling to respond.

Earthquakes, for instance, occur when tectonic plates shift under the Earth's surface. Although we cannot prevent earthquakes, scientists can measure seismic activity and issue warnings to prepare for the possibility. The magnitude of the earthquake determines the severity of the damage, with stronger quakes causing widespread destruction.

Floods, on the other hand, often occur after heavy rainfall or when rivers overflow. They can damage homes, farmland, and infrastructure, displacing entire communities. Flooding is particularly problematic in areas near rivers or in regions with poor drainage systems.

Hurricanes, which occur in tropical regions, bring heavy rain, strong winds, and storm surges. These can lead to widespread destruction, flooding, and loss of life. Preparedness measures such as evacuation plans and reinforced buildings help reduce damage, but these storms can still be devastating.

Wildfires, often started by dry conditions or human activity, can rapidly spread across vast areas, destroying forests and homes. While some areas are well-prepared with firefighting teams and early-warning systems, others may face severe consequences when fires break out unexpectedly.

The effects of these disasters can be devastating, but with better preparedness and stronger response systems, the damage can be mitigated. Scientists continue to study natural disasters in order to develop better prediction methods and strategies to minimize their impact on human lives.

Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. **What is the main idea of the passage?**
 - a) The different types of natural disasters
 - b) The importance of evacuation during a natural disaster
 - c) The causes and effects of natural disasters
 - d) The role of governments in disaster response

2. Which of the following is the best inference about how natural disasters impact people?

- a) They can cause loss of life and economic damage.
- b) People often ignore warnings about natural disasters.
- c) Only large earthquakes have severe consequences.
- d) Natural disasters always happen with enough warning.

3. What does the writer think about the importance of disaster preparedness?

- a) It is not necessary as disasters are unpredictable.
- b) It can help reduce the severity of damage.
- c) It is only useful in areas with many natural disasters.
- d) It makes no difference in preventing natural disasters.

Inference Questions

4. Why are wildfires particularly dangerous in certain areas?

- a) They can happen without any warning.
- b) Dry conditions or human activities often cause them to spread quickly.
- c) They only occur in areas near rivers.
- d) Firefighting teams are often unavailable.

5. What can be inferred about floods in the passage?

- a) Flooding is only a problem in coastal areas.
- b) Poor drainage systems can contribute to the severity of floods.
- c) Floods only happen after a hurricane.
- d) Floods can be easily prevented with the right technology.

6. How does the writer view the role of scientists in predicting natural disasters?

- a) They are not important in reducing the impact of disasters.
- b) Their work helps improve preparation for natural disasters.
- c) They can prevent all natural disasters.
- d) They focus more on earthquakes than on other disasters.

True/False/Not Given Questions

7. Natural disasters can be completely prevented.

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Not Given

8. Tropical regions are most affected by hurricanes.

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Not Given

9. Flooding only occurs during hurricanes.

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Not Given

Complete the Sentences with a Word

10. Scientists continue to study natural disasters to improve the ability to _____ them.

11. Wildfires can destroy forests and homes, especially when _____ conditions prevail.