07 NATURE

VOCABULARY
Weather and natural disasters

A Complete the names for natural disasters. Then choose the correct answer.

Questions, questions ...

1 What language does the word ts_____ come from (literally 'harbour wave')?
a Chinese
b Japanese

2 What is more likely to cause a fo____ f___?
a human carelessness
b the heat from the sun

3 A t_____ is a vertical column of spinning air. Which country is a major hotspot for this type of storm?
a Japan
b the USA

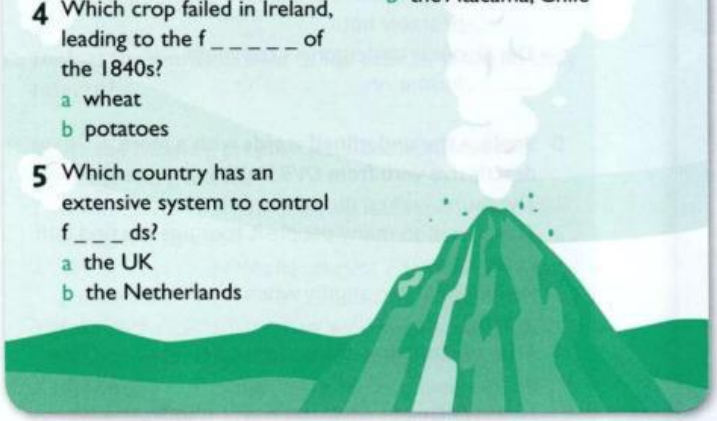
4 Which crop failed in Ireland, leading to the f_____ of the 1840s?
a wheat
b potatoes

5 Which country has an extensive system to control f___ds?
a the UK
b the Netherlands

6 In which country did the strongest ea_____ on record (9.5 on the Richter scale) occur?
a Chile
b Indonesia

7 Approximately how many v_____es are still active and so may erupt in the future?
a about 1,900
b about 500

8 Which desert has experienced the longest d_____t?
a the Sahara, in north Africa
b the Atacama, Chile



B Choose the correct words.

1 A: Wasn't that *storm / tornado* incredible yesterday? The thunder was so *strong / loud*, I jumped right out of my chair. And the *lightning / lighter* lit up the whole sky. It was amazing!
B: Actually, I didn't think it was much fun. I got absolutely *wet / soaked* and it took me all day to dry *up / out*.

2 A: I can't stand this weather. It's so cold I nearly *freezing / froze* to death on the bus to work.
B: I know what you mean. And I don't think the snow is due to *fall / melt* for days yet.

3 A: Did you enjoy the view from the top?
B: Actually, it wasn't very clear when we got up there. A light *misty / mist* was forming over the fields.
A: That's pretty common. Some days we get really *strong / thick* fog. You have to wait ages for it to *lift / rise*.

4 A: I wasn't that keen on Florida. The *heat / hot* was unbearable and it was so *wet / humid* I needed a shower every hour.
B: When we were there, the wind was really *boiling / blowing*. It was so *strong / tough* we hardly went out all week.

5 A: Is it still *pouring / spilling* down near the beach? It was awful earlier on.
B: No, it's *cleared / eased* off quite a bit over here. It's only really *spitting / dripping* now. And there's only a *slight / slim* breeze. We should be OK for a walk.

GRAMMAR Narrative tenses

A Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs. Use the past simple, past continuous, present perfect or past perfect.

I [1] ..... (watch) this documentary the other night about tornadoes. [2] ..... (never / see) anything like it before. It [3] ..... (film) in 'Tornado Alley' in the US – states like Oklahoma and Kansas, which are major hotspots for tornadoes. The programme [4] ..... (show) a tornado that [5] ..... (form) just outside a small town in South Dakota. There was a family who [6] ..... (not realise) that the storm [7] ..... (come) and had just minutes to get into their truck and set off in the opposite direction. Then there was this guy who [8] ..... (work) as a storm chaser for years, a professional scientist whose job is to plant sensors into the path of the wind. I [9] ..... (not believe) anyone would do this! While he and his friend [10] ..... (speed) along in an ordinary car, one of the biggest tornadoes of that year [11] ..... (move) right towards them. It [12] ..... (be) like something out of a movie. They [13] ..... (manage) to plant the sensor and then the tornado just [14] ..... (die) away. Apparently, they don't last that long and they only travel like 10 km – far enough though if you live in 'Tornado Alley'.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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B Match the sentence halves.

1 Typical! The weather only turned bad after
2 It was so beautiful to see a rainbow just after
3 The fog was so thick I couldn't see a thing as
4 We decided to shelter under some trees until
5 My friend from South Africa had never
6 It started to pour down just as we

a the rain eased off and the sun came out.
b the storm had passed.
c seen snow until she came to Scotland.
d I'd booked a week's holiday.
e were walking back from the beach.
f I was driving along the motorway.

DEVELOPING CONVERSATIONS
Exaggerating

Choose the correct lines from the box to complete the conversations.

a but every time I see her she's wearing a different pair!
b It was like twice the price of any other laptop.
c but they were very slow.
d It's the best CD I've ever heard, by miles.
e They've got like ten houses around the world.
f but she did keep me waiting a long time.

1 A: I must have waited an hour for my main course.
B: Really?
A: Well, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, ...
2 A: .....
B: Really?
A: Maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, but it was pretty expensive.
3 A: .....
B: Really?
A: Maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, but they are very wealthy.
4 A: She must have hundreds of pairs of shoes.
B: Really?
A: Maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, ...
5 A: .....
B: Really?
A: Well, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, but it is pretty good.
6 A: Annie never, ever arrives on time.
B: Really?
A: Maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, ...

LISTENING

A 7.1 Listen to Eddie and Jan talking about a new cloud formation. What's the relationship between them?

a a scientist and a reporter
b a lecturer and student
c two friends

B Listen again and write the correct letter E (Eddie) or J (Jan).

Who ...

1 already knew about the cloud? ☐
2 thought the other person was taking the mickey? ☐
3 finds more information to support his / her argument? ☐
4 gives descriptions of the clouds? ☐
5 suggests they find out more about the Cloud Appreciation Society? ☐
6 is pleased by the other person's change of attitude? ☐

PRONUNCIATION Intonation

Language note intonation

Intonation is the changes in sound produced by the rise and fall of the voice. English tends to use quite a wide voice range, particularly when expressing surprise, interest or enthusiasm. A flat intonation can give the impression that you are not interested, especially when talking to native speakers.

A Practise saying these sentences.

1 A new type of what?
2 Eddie, are you winding me up? It's not April Fools' day, is it?
3 No way! You're kidding. Let me see that.
4 Wow! You're right. Those photos are amazing.
5 Wow, you've really got in to this, haven't you?
6 Who would've thought a cloud could create so much interest?

B Listen and check. Practise again and try to imitate the intonation.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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GRAMMAR Participle clauses

A Complete the sentences about challenges to the natural world with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

reach	live	recycle	affect
become	cut down	invest	pollute

1 The number of people ..... their carbon footprint isn't rising fast enough.
2 The percentage of people ..... everyday materials hasn't risen by much.
3 Few of the agreements ..... on climate change are having a real effect.
4 The number of species ..... extinct worldwide shows no sign of slowing.
5 The amount of money ..... into green technology is too low.
6 Seas and rivers ..... by industry are never fully cleaned up.
7 Many of the people most ..... by climate change have little political influence.
8 The percentage of the population ..... to over 80 is rising.

B Choose the correct form. Then complete the sentences to make them true for your town/city.

1 The percentage of young people *going / gone* to university ...
.....
.....
2 The amount of affordable housing *building / built* ...
.....
.....
3 The job opportunities *creating / created* for young people ...
.....
.....
4 The percentage of people *lived / living* alone ...
.....
.....
5 The amount of money *invested / investing* in transport ...
.....
.....
6 The number of tourists *visited / visiting* ...
.....
.....

READING

A Read the webpage opposite quickly. Who wrote it and why?

a a science writer to reply to requests for information
b a travel writer to recommend places to see
c a traveller to describe places he / she has visited

B Read the webpage again and match the opinions to the places. There is one opinion you don't need.

1 'I never knew they came in so many colours. And seeing them move around their native habitat in such numbers was such a joy.'
2 'We weren't sure it was going ahead so it was such a treat when we saw the first streak of colour appear. I thought I was going to cry.'
3 'I never thought I would get so close to one. To see it erupting was the most awe-inspiring thing I've ever seen.'
4 'I had to pinch myself on the first day. I couldn't believe I was up-close and personal with these incredible animals.'
5 'I must have taken hundreds of photos. The shapes and colours were just so different from what we have at home.'

C Which place / activity

1 is a long distance from a town / city?
2 has an attraction that may or may not appear?
3 has official status as an important natural area?
4 is a destination for people with a particular hobby?
5 involves close contact with animals?
6 occurs in different parts of the world?
7 has animal life in a spectacular range of colours?
8 includes a well-known landmark?

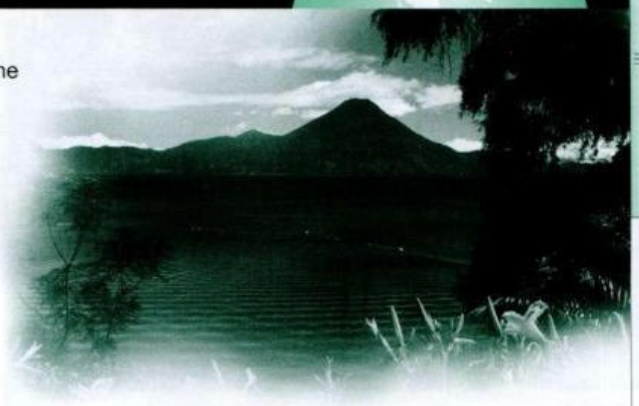
D Write the missing verbs. Look back at the webpage if you need to.

1 If you're into marine life, ... no further than the waters off the south coast.
2 The forest ..... an incredible range of wildlife and plants.
3 Go up to the top of the hill. The view will ..... your breath away.
4 The site was just beautiful, ... by huge mountains and dense forest.
5 Hours waiting and we didn't even ..... a glimpse of a bird or animal. It was such a waste of time.
6 These waters ..... the perfect habitat for dolphins.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Natural Wonders Not To Be Missed

If you want to see something that will take your breath away, forget the Sydney Opera House, Golden Gate Bridge or even the Great Wall of China. Look no further than the natural world for inspiration. Here's a selection of must-see places and must-do activities from around the globe.



A The best light show on earth

Aurora Borealis or the 'Northern Lights' is the name given to the extraordinary natural phenomenon of coloured lights seen in the skies of the northern regions of Scandinavia, Alaska and Canada. Often described as the most spellbinding natural firework display, the lights fill the sky with dancing streams of red, yellow, green and violet. Never the same twice, the appeal of the lights is made all the stronger in that their appearance is not guaranteed. The right combination of conditions has to be in place for this magic show to start.

B A plant-lovers' paradise

If plants are your passion, then look no further than South Africa, which is home to about 10 per cent of all known species on earth. The Western Cape includes the fynbos – a unique type of vegetation consisting of thousands of plant species native to the area. So special is the vegetation here that it has been designated as one of the earth's six plant kingdoms. The Cape Floral Region, which includes the iconic symbol of Cape Town – Table Mountain, became a Unesco World Heritage Site in 2004. Among this glorious floral spectacle, one of the highlights must be the 130 species of protea, which come in all shapes, sizes and colours.

C Brilliant bird life, spectacular setting

If your idea of bird watching is waiting for hours on a rainy day to catch a glimpse of a dull, brown bird, think again. The small central American country of Guatemala boasts an incredible range of bird life, all in glorious technicolour. Among the birds is the elusive Resplendent Quetzal, whose courtship and nesting behaviour attract birdwatchers from around the world. And the national parks and nature reserves around Lake Atitlán provide the perfect habitat for the 320 species recorded in the area. The shimmering waters of the lake are surrounded by forests and dominated by the impressive cones of three dormant volcanoes.

D Lend a hand to the elusive panda

If you've only ever seen a giant panda on a TV wildlife documentary, take the opportunity to live alongside one of the world's rarest and most adored animals. Set in the majestic surroundings at the foot of the Qinling mountains, the Shaanxi Province Rescue and Breeding Research Center near Xian in China welcomes volunteers to work with these fascinating creatures. The tasks include monitoring the animals' behaviour, preparing the bamboo which is their staple diet, and keeping their pens clean. Not for the average tourist as the location is pretty remote, but animal lovers could find themselves working with some of the other amazing species indigenous to China such as the Golden Monkey or Crested Ibis.

Glossary

phenomenon: a fact or event, especially in nature
courtship: animal behaviour to attract a mate
ibis: a species of bird with long legs and a long neck

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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VOCABULARY Plants and trees

Complete the texts with the words in the boxes.

stem	herbs	palm tree	leaves	roots

I'd always thought of gardening as a hobby for older people, but having my own little area of earth has changed me. I now find the whole process of growing plants fascinating. It amazes me that when you plant dry, brown [1] ....., a few weeks later you get a strong [2] ....., green [3] ..... and maybe beautiful flowers. From the smallest patch of [4] ..... to add to cooking to the largest [5] ..... to sit under on sunny days, growing plants is like a tiny miracle.

oak	flower	weeds	seeds	bushes

I've just joined a group of guerrilla gardeners – a group of volunteers whose mission is to green up abandoned areas of land. We're working on a big area down by the station. We cleared the whole site of [6] ..... and planted thousands of [7] ..... . When they [8] ..... next spring, the whole area will be transformed. Our proudest moment was when we planted native [9] ..... and [10] ..... trees in an area that was going to be made into a car park.

DEVELOPING WRITING

A story – using the first line

A Complete the story with the time expressions in the box.

when	just	suddenly	within seconds
while	before	later	on this particular night

I'd never been so terrified in all my life. It all happened on a flight from New York to London, [1] ..... the plane flew into a storm. I'd done that overnight trip hundred of times [2] ..... and never even noticed the weather. [3] ....., there was nothing eventful about the start of the journey. It was a relatively quiet flight and we took off more or less on time.

[4] ..... the crew was talking us through the safety drill, I flipped through the in-flight magazine and then tried to sleep. A couple of hours [5] ....., I was woken by the pilot's announcement about turbulence. [6] ..... two of the flight attendants were hurrying up and down the plane, checking safety belts.

Then [7] ..... I got the fright of my life. There was an incredibly loud bang and the plane shook violently. It dropped through the air for what seemed ages and I thought my time was up. I could hear the others passengers screaming. Then pilot explained that we'd been hit by lightning but that we'd [8] ..... come through the storm and there was nothing to worry about. It was such a relief when we landed in London safe and sound.

B Choose the correct words.

1 I got the *frightened* / *fright* of my life.
2 I was *afraid* / *scared* stiff.
3 I was almost scared to *death* / *die* by it.
4 We were all thrown into a *panic* / *panicked*.
5 I was shaking with *fear* / *scare*.

C Match 1–6 and a–f.

I could hear ...

1 the waves	a snorting and stamping.
2 the flames	b thumping in my ears.
3 the horse's hooves	c thundering towards me.
4 the dog	d crackling as the fire got nearer.
5 my heart	e growling and snarling.
6 the bull	f crashing against the side of the boat.

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