Worksheet: Natural Disasters and the Past Simple

Name: _____

Learning goal / Propósito: Hoy escribirás un texto breve en *Past Simple* para narrar un desastre natural, usando verbos regulares e irregulares, conectores y vocabulario del tema.

Warm-up: Vocabulary

Match the words with the pictures or definitions. Write the letter.

Word	Definition	Answer
1. earthquake	A. a huge wave caused by an earthquake under the sea	___
2. flood	B. a mass of earth and rocks falling down a hill	___
3. landslide	C. a violent shaking of the ground	___
4. tsunami	D. a mountain that throws out lava and ash	___
5. volcano	E. too much water covering dry land	___
6. drought	F. a long period without rain	___

Activity 1: Read and understand

> ***A Strong Earthquake in Peru***
>
> *On August 15, 2007, a strong earthquake hit the south coast of Peru. It happened in the evening, when many families were at home. The ground shook for a long time, and many buildings in Pisco and Ica fell down. People ran into the streets because they were scared. Some of them screamed, others called their relatives, and many just waited outside in the dark.*
> *The situation was very difficult in the following hours. Some roads broke, the electricity stopped, and many shops closed. Rescue teams arrived the next day and helped the families. Doctors treated the injured, and firefighters searched for people under the rubble.*
> *Volunteers from different parts of Peru and from other countries came to help. They brought food, water, and blankets. Many people lost their homes, so they slept in tents for weeks. Children didn't go to school for a long time because some classrooms were damaged.*
> *Little by little, the community worked together and rebuilt the city. After the disaster, schools and families learned an important lesson: they practiced evacuation drills, prepared emergency bags, and found safe places to go. Today, people remember that day and try to be ready for the next earthquake.*

Write T (True) or F (False). Correct the false sentences.

1. The earthquake hit the north coast of Peru. ____
2. People ran into the streets. ____
3. Rescue teams arrived on the same day. ____
4. Volunteers brought food, water, and blankets. ____
5. Nobody lost their home. ____

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What happened on August 15, 2007?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

_____

2. What did people do after the earthquake?

_____

3. Who helped the families?

_____

4. Why didn't children go to school for a long time?

_____

5. What did schools and families learn?

_____

Find the words in the text.

- A shelter made of cloth where people sleep outside: _____
- Broken pieces of buildings: _____
- People who help without receiving money: _____

Activity 2: Find the past verbs. Underline all the Past Simple verbs in the text. Then classify at least 15 of them.

Regular verbs (-ed)	Irregular verbs

Remember: Past Simple

Affirmative: Subject + verb in past → *The flood destroyed the bridge.*
Negative: Subject + **didn't** + base verb → *The flood didn't destroy the school.*
Question: Did + subject + base verb? → *Did the flood destroy the bridge?* — Yes, it **did**. / No, it **didn't**.
Spelling rules for regular verbs / Reglas de ortografía:

- Most verbs: add **-ed** (help → helped, flood → flooded)
- Verbs ending in **-e**: add **-d** (rescue → rescued)
- Consonant + **y**: change y to **-ied** (carry → carried)
- Short verbs with consonant-vowel-consonant: double the last letter + **-ed** (stop → stopped)

Activity 3: Write the Past Simple form.

Base form	Past Simple	Base form	Past Simple
destroy		evacuate	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Base form	Past Simple	Base form	Past Simple
rescue		warn	
carry		damage	
stop		cover	
flood		study	

Activity 4: Complete the table.

Base form	Past Simple	Base form	Past Simple
break		build	
fall		see	
hit		take	
run		go	
shake		lose	
bring		feel	

Activity 5: Complete the sentences

Put the verb in brackets in the Past Simple (affirmative, negative or question).

1. The hurricane _____ (destroy) many houses last year.
2. The river _____ (flood) the town during the rainy season.
3. We _____ (feel) the earthquake at night.
4. The volcano _____ (erupt) and ash _____ (cover) the sky.
5. Rescuers _____ (not / find) everyone on the first day.
6. _____ the people _____ (leave) their homes before the storm?
7. The tsunami _____ (hit) the coast yesterday.
8. Firefighters _____ (save) many families from the wildfire.

Activity 6: Change the sentences

Write the negative (–) and the question (?).

Example: (+) The landslide blocked the road. (–) The landslide didn't block the road. (?) Did the landslide block the road?

1. The students practiced the evacuation drill.
   (–) _____
   (?) _____
2. The storm caused many problems.
   (–) _____
   (?) _____
3. The government sent help to the families.
   (–) _____
   (?) _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Activity 7: Put the words in order

1. destroyed / the / flood / bridge / the → _____
2. didn't / many / people / escape / in time → _____
3. did / the / earthquake / when / happen → _____
4. helped / the / volunteers / families / the → _____

Activity 8: Write!

Write a **news report** of **100 to 120 words** about a natural disaster. It can be real or imaginary.

Plan your text

- **What** happened? (earthquake, flood, landslide...)
- **When** and **where** did it happen?
- **What** did the disaster destroy or damage?
- **How** did people react? (ran, evacuated, helped...)
- **What** happened after? (rescue, rebuilding, lessons learned...)

Useful language

Vocabulary	Time expressions	Connectors
earthquake, flood, landslide, hurricane, tsunami, eruption, drought, wildfire	yesterday, last year, two days ago, in 2007, on Monday	first, then, after that, finally, because, but, so

Title: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS