

Before listening

Reorder the letters to find these natural disasters.

- 1 dolof 2 chirunare
3 grouthd 3 quatehaker

What do you know about each one?

While listening

Exercise 2

Student A

Listen to track 1. You will hear about hurricanes. Write down 4 words you think you will hear.

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-
-
-



Student B

Listen to track 2. You will hear about floods. Write down 4 words you think you will hear.

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-
-
-



While listening

Exercise 2

Listen again and answer the questions.

Questions	Student A - Hurricanes	Student B - Floods
What are they?		
Why do they happen?		
Where do they happen?		
How do they affect people?		
What can people do?		

Follow-up

Match the words to the correct definition.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a Blow down (v) | b Condense (v) |
| c Dam (n) | d Disaster (n) |
| e Disrupt (v) | f Drown (v) |
| g Evaporate (v) | h Reduce (v) |
| i Shock (n) | j Warning (n) |

A statement telling people of a possible problem or danger

A very bad event that causes lots of damage or kills a lot of people

A wall built across a river to stop the water

Something bad that happens unexpectedly and surprises you

The process when a gas changes into a liquid

The process when a liquid (e.g. water) changes into a gas

To go under water and die

To interrupt or prevent something from continuing

To make something smaller or less in size

When a strong wind makes something fall over

Level

Elementary

Time needed

30–40 minutes (approx)

Preparation

Photocopy of the worksheet for each student. You will also need to organise 2 rooms (or work with another class on the same lesson) and have two tape/CD players

Procedure**Before listening**

- 1 On the board write up the words *Natural Disasters* and ask your students if they can name any.
- 2 Then, write up the following jumbled word: *ifre* (fire) and ask the students if they can un-jumble the letters to make a word.
- 3 Hand out the worksheet and ask the students to un-jumble the four words.
- 4 Put the students in pairs and get them to check together and ask them to discuss what they know about each of the natural disasters.
- 5 Monitor and help where necessary.
- 6 Finally, check the answers as a class and see what information the students can tell you about each of the natural disasters.

Key

- 1 flood 3 drought
2 hurricane 4 earthquake

Exercise 1**While listening**

- 1 Divide your class into two groups A & B.
- 2 Take group A to one classroom & group B to a different classroom (or if working with another teacher/class then swap half your class with each other).
- 3 Hand out the worksheet and tell group A to complete the box about hurricanes and group B to complete the box about floods.
- 4 Encourage the students to work in pairs within their groups.
- 5 Monitor and help where necessary.
- 6 Next, explain that they will listen to a recording about hurricanes or floods (depending on which group they are in) and they should tick one of their words they hear.
- 7 Play the recordings once and then get the students to compare the words they heard.

Exercise 2**While listening**

- 1 Hand out the worksheets and ask the students to read the questions.
- 2 Put the students in pairs (they should still be in their groups A & B) and tell them to discuss each question.
- 3 Play the recordings (so that group A listen to the recording about hurricanes and group B the one about floods) and get the students to complete their column of the chart.
- 4 Put students in pairs and get them to compare their answers.

- 5 Play the recording again if necessary.
- 6 Next, bring the two groups together and pair up the students so that one student A is working with one student B.
- 7 Tell the students to tell their partner the answers to the questions for the natural disaster they listened to and to complete the other column in the chart.
- 8 Monitor and help where necessary.
- 9 Finally, check the answers as a class.

Follow-up

- 1 Hand out the worksheet and ask the students to match the words on the left to the correct definition on the right.
- 2 Put students in pairs and get them to check their answers together.
- 3 Check the answers as a class.

Note: If you want you could play the whole recording so that your students can hear the words in context.

Key

Questions	Student A - Hurricanes	Student B - Floods
What are they?	Tropical storms with strong winds.	When the water in rivers, lakes etc rises above its normal level and goes onto the land.
Why do they happen?	Warm water evaporates from the sea, condenses in the atmosphere and becomes a strong wind.	If there is a lot of rain or very strong winds.
Where do they happen?	Over warm parts of the ocean.	Some rivers in Bangladesh and India flood every year.
How do they affect people?	Blow down houses, cause floods, disrupt traffic and affect ships.	People can drown, lose houses and furniture.
What can people do?	Scientists can track hurricanes, but they can't stop them.	Dams can reduce floods. Listen to the 'flood warnings' on the radio.

Key

Blow down (v) - j Condense (v) - e

Dam (n) - c Disaster (n) - b

Disrupt (v) - h Drown (v) - g

Evaporate (v) - f Reduce (v) - i

Shock (n) - d Warning (n) - a

Project work

Use the Internet and get your students to find out more about hurricanes and floods.

Here are just a few website to start you off.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4588149.stm>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/features/understanding/hurricane_season.shtml

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_1610000/newsid_1613800/1613858.stm

Tapescript**Part 1****Natural disasters**

Scientists understand a lot about the environment - but they don't understand everything! Every year, there are big and small disasters in different parts of the world. Some of these happen very often, but some of them are a big shock. How do these natural disasters affect humans? Can we do anything about them?

Hurricanes**What are they?**

Tropical storms with strong winds. They start at sea, and can travel a long distance. They have different names in different places: 'hurricanes' in the Atlantic Ocean, 'typhoons' in the Pacific Ocean, 'tropical cyclones' in the Indian Ocean and around Australasia.

Tornadoes, or whirlwinds, are similar, but begin over land.

Why do they happen?

The water evaporates from the warm sea. This condenses in the atmosphere. More and more hot, wet air rises up. It becomes a strong wind.

Where do they happen?

Over the warm parts of oceans. Tornadoes are common in parts of the U.S.A, Australia, and Japan.

How do they affect people?

They can affect ships, blow down houses, cause floods and disrupt traffic.

What can people do?

Scientists can usually track hurricanes, but they cannot stop them.

Part 2**Floods****What are they?**

The water in rivers, lakes or the ocean rises above its normal level and goes onto the land.

Why do they happen?

If there is a lot of rain, or very strong winds, floods can happen.

Where do they happen?

Some rivers in Bangladesh and India flood every year. People expect it, so there is no panic. When the floods go down, there are lots of minerals in the soil. They can grow good plants.

How do they affect people?

When the floods are a surprise, many people can drown. Every year, people

lose their houses and their furniture. When floods happen every year, some people are ready for them. But many people (and governments) do not prepare properly.

What can people do?

Dams can reduce floods - but some dams can cause them! There are often 'flood warnings' on the radio.