

Listen!



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Typhoon



Let's Think

1. What do you do when there is a big typhoon?
2. Have you ever heard about any places that would often be seriously affected by typhoons?

You are Ariel. You are reading an expository essay about typhoons.

Typhoons

A typhoon is a natural disaster. It is a violent tropical cyclone with wind speeds of 74 miles per hour or higher. Hurricanes are the same type of storms as typhoons, but they are called different names as they occur in different parts of the world. The cyclones in the Pacific Ocean around Hawaii and Asia are called typhoons, while those in the eastern coastline along the United States and Central America are called hurricanes.

Typhoons occur when warm air mixes with cold air and forms winds. In the tropical oceans, when winds blow from high pressure areas towards low pressure areas, the winds become a storm. When the storm begins to spin around a centre called an 'eye' and intensifies, a typhoon forms.

A typhoon can bring about a lot of problems. Heavy rain can lead to flooding and mudslides in many places. Mountain towns are usually the most severely affected: trees are knocked down, buildings are flattened; houses are flooded; bridges are destroyed. In an instant, hundreds of thousands of people lose their families and homes.

To deal with the aftermath of typhoons, relief efforts are made by local firefighters or soldiers. Besides, helicopters are used to help rescue trapped people. Other countries also send supplies, equipment and workers to help in the devastated areas. In addition, temporary shelters are put up, and some governments offer home repair assistance grants to those who lose their homes.

Every year, the damage wreaked by tropical cyclones can result in losses of hundreds of millions of dollars and numerous lives. The destruction is so enormous that we should spare no effort in taking all preventive measures possible.

(273 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the essay. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- Which of the following is **NOT** the result of typhoons?
 - A. a rise in water level
 - B. casualties
 - C. collapsed bridges
 - D. an increase in temperature
- Which of the following is **NOT TRUE**?
 - A. A typhoon is a natural disaster.
 - B. Typhoons and hurricanes are tropical cyclones.
 - C. Storms are formed when winds blow from high pressure areas to low pressure areas.
 - D. The eye of a typhoon spins.
- Which of the following is **TRUE**?
 - A. The wind speed of a typhoon is 74 miles per hour.
 - B. Nothing can be done about the aftermath of typhoons.
 - C. People in mountain towns suffer more from typhoons.
 - D. Flooding is the most unpleasant effect of a typhoon.
- An 'eye' _____.
 - A. is a centre around which a storm spins
 - B. can see how a typhoon forms
 - C. is where a typhoon starts
 - D. witnesses how winds become storms
- In line 23, 'spare no effort' means '_____'.
 - A. not to waste time and energy on something
 - B. to try everything to achieve something
 - C. to divide labour equally
 - D. to make things happen without wasting time

Grammar Corner

We can use **connectives** such as '**besides**', '**also**' and '**in addition**' to add information.

e.g. *Besides*, helicopters are used to help rescue trapped people. (Lines 17-18)

e.g. *Other countries also send supplies, equipment and workers to help in the devastated areas.* (Lines 18-19)

e.g. *In addition, temporary shelters are put up, and some governments offer home repair assistance grants to those who lose their homes.* (Lines 19-20)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the essay. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. In paragraph 1, find a word which means 'to happen'.

Note that 'similar' means 'almost the same, but not exactly so'.

2. How is a typhoon similar to a hurricane?

3. In paragraph 4, find a word which can best be replaced by 'consequences'.

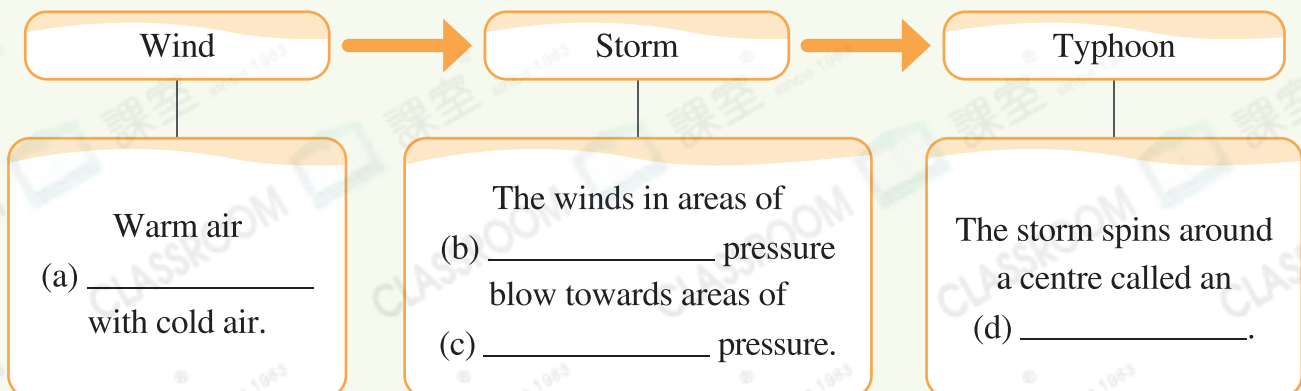
4. Who plays a part in the following duties of helping in a typhoon-struck area? Write the correct letters in the blanks.

a. firefighters b. people in other countries c. the government

Parties responsible	Duties
(a)	sending supplies and equipment
(b)	giving money to the homeless victims
(c)	making relief efforts



5. Fill in each blank with one word only to complete the flow chart about the formation of a typhoon.



Vocabulary Bank

The following are some natural disasters. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

tornado earthquake flooding drought
tsunami volcanic eruption blizzard avalanche mudslide



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. What can we do if we live in places that are vulnerable to natural disasters?
2. Which natural disaster do you find the most terrifying? Why?