

Key Text 1 - Natural Disasters

The definition of natural disasters is any catastrophic event that is caused by nature or the natural processes of the earth. The severity of a disaster is measured in lives lost, economic loss, and the ability of the population to rebuild. Events that occur in unpopulated areas are not considered disasters. So a flood on an uninhabited island would not count as a disaster, but a flood in a populated area is called a natural disaster.

All natural disasters cause loss in some way. Depending on the severity, lives can be lost in any number of disasters. Falling buildings or trees, freezing to death, being washed away, or heat stroke are just some of the deadly effects. Some disasters cause more loss of life than others, and population density affects the death count as well.

Then there is loss of property, which affects people's homes, transportation, livelihood, and means to live. Fields saturated in salt water after tsunamis take years to grow crops again. Homes destroyed by floods, hurricanes, cyclones, landslides and avalanches, a volcanic eruption, or an earthquake are often beyond repair or take a lot of time to become liveable again. Personal effects, memorabilia, vehicles, and documents also take a hit after many natural disasters.

Natural disasters vocabulary (with Key Text #1)

catastrophic– has a very, very bad effect on people

personal effects– personal things people own

event– something that happens

memorabilia – things you keep to remember something

severity – how bad it is

vehicles– cars, trucks, etc.

disaster– something very bad that happens

documents – papers containing information

economic– to do with money

take a hit– to be affected badly

population– the people living in a place

property– the things people own

livelihood– the way people earn money to live

saturated– completely covered and soaked in

crops – plants we grow for food

beyond repair– can't be fixed

liveable– you can live there

populated– a place where people live

unpopulated or uninhabited– places where no people live