Where Danger Strikes

Locate historical hazards, trace their effects, and plan safer responses.

WG.5.1 "Map the occurrence and describe the effects of natural hazards throughout the world and explain ways to prepare for and respond to them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that locate each hazard, circle one effect of each hazard, and write 1 beside a preparation step and 2 beside a response step for each hazard.

Three Hazards, Three Places

1. At the western edge of Europe, Lisbon, Portugal, faced a powerful earthquake in 1755. Shaking damaged buildings; a tsunami then swept into the harbor, and fires spread through the city. The disaster disrupted trade in the Portuguese empire as well as local life. Lisbon sits near a boundary between moving plates, where earthquakes can occur beneath the nearby Atlantic Ocean. A map of earthquake risk would mark this coast, not all of Europe equally. Today, coastal communities can identify higher ground and practice evacuation routes before a tsunami. After strong shaking, people should leave the shore without waiting to see a wave.

2. In 1815, Mount Tambora erupted on Sumbawa, an island in present-day Indonesia. Sumbawa lies along an arc of volcanoes where one plate sinks beneath another. Ash and hot flows devastated areas near the mountain, and food shortages killed many people. Material blasted high into the atmosphere also helped cool the climate, contributing to poor harvests far beyond the island in 1816. On a world map, the volcano belongs in Southeast Asia, not beside Lisbon. Communities near active volcanoes can plan evacuation routes and protect drinking water from ash. When officials order evacuation, residents should leave threatened areas promptly.

3. In 1876, a severe cyclone struck the low-lying coast of Bengal near the northern Bay of Bengal, in British-ruled India (now Bangladesh). Winds and a storm surge pushed seawater over coastal villages; many died, and ruined fields and drinking water made recovery harder. The bay's warm water helps cyclones form, while its narrowing northern end and flat coast increase flood danger. A risk map would shade this coast differently from inland high ground. Before storms, residents can plan routes to raised shelters and store safe water. When warned, they should move to shelter; after flooding, they need medical care.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where would you mark Lisbon on a world map, and why would its nearby coast need an earthquake and tsunami risk mark?

2. Where would you mark Mount Tambora compared with Lisbon? Describe one effect near the volcano and one effect far away.

3. Why would a risk map shade the northern Bay of Bengal coast differently from inland high ground? Name one effect of the 1876 cyclone there.

4. Choose one hazard in the passage. What could people do before it strikes, and what should they do when it strikes or soon after?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new town on a low coast beside an active volcano in the western Pacific. In four sentences, describe where you would mark two hazard zones on a local map, predict one effect in each zone, and give one preparation step and one response step for the town.

Where Danger Strikes

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues that locate each hazard, circle one effect of each hazard, and write 1 beside a preparation step and 2 beside a response step for each hazard. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where would you mark Lisbon on a world map, and why would its nearby coast need an earthquake and tsunami risk mark?	**Mark Lisbon on Portugal's Atlantic coast in western Europe. Nearby plate movement can cause earthquakes beneath the ocean, and a tsunami can reach the coast.**
2	Where would you mark Mount Tambora compared with Lisbon? Describe one effect near the volcano and one effect far away.	**Mark Tambora on Sumbawa in Southeast Asia, far from Lisbon in western Europe. Ash and hot flows devastated nearby areas; atmospheric material contributed to poor harvests far away in 1816.**
3	Why would a risk map shade the northern Bay of Bengal coast differently from inland high ground? Name one effect of the 1876 cyclone there.	**The bay's narrowing northern end and the flat coast increase storm-surge flooding compared with inland high ground. The surge flooded villages, damaged fields and drinking water, and caused deaths.**
4	Choose one hazard in the passage. What could people do before it strikes, and what should they do when it strikes or soon after?	**For a tsunami, people could practice routes to higher ground beforehand and leave the shore after strong shaking.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would mark the low coast as a tsunami zone because waves from an offshore earthquake could flood it. I would mark the land near the volcano as an eruption zone because ash and hot flows could damage homes and crops. Before a disaster, the town could practice evacuation routes and store covered drinking water. After strong shaking, residents should move inland to higher ground without waiting to see a wave.

Accept other passage-supported locations, effects, and actions. For the open task, look for two distinct zones, a plausible effect in each, and a preparation and response suited to the town.