After the Flood

Trace how one disaster changed daily life and work

6.C.4.2 "Analyze the impact of natural disasters on human populations, including displacement, scarcity of consumer goods, economic activities, and loss of life."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show why people left their homes or died, circle two causes of shortages, and number two ways the storm interrupted work.

Hurricane Katrina and Its Effects

1 In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast. Strong winds and a powerful storm surge damaged homes and roads. In New Orleans, some levees failed, and floodwater covered much of the city. People trapped in flooded buildings faced serious danger, and many died. Hundreds of thousands of residents left their homes, some for weeks or months. Families stayed with relatives or in temporary shelters. Leaving was not simply a choice to avoid the storm. For many, a flooded home was no longer safe to live in.

2 Flooding also changed what people could buy. Water damaged neighborhood stores, and power outages spoiled food that needed refrigeration. Flooded streets slowed trucks bringing bottled water, groceries, and medicine into the city. Even families with money could not always find these goods nearby. Long lines formed at stores that reopened, while relief groups handed out supplies. A shortage could last after the wind stopped because stores needed electricity, workers, and deliveries before their shelves could fill again. Families who had moved away needed supplies in their new locations, too.

3 Katrina also interrupted how people earned a living. Flooded restaurants and hotels could not serve customers, so many employees missed paychecks. Damaged fishing boats and docks kept some crews from working along the coast. With fewer workers and damaged roads, businesses struggled to reopen and receive shipments. Some families spent savings on travel and temporary housing instead of buying from local businesses. As buildings and roads were repaired, some jobs returned. But people who had moved far away could not easily return to their old workplaces, so the effects lasted beyond the flood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the failed levees in New Orleans lead to both displacement and loss of life?

2. Why could bottled water and groceries be hard to buy even for families with money?

3. How did damage to fishing boats and docks affect people who worked along the coast?

4. How could families moving away make it harder for local businesses to recover?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an earthquake damages homes, a grocery warehouse, and a bridge in a town that is not on the coast. Write four sentences explaining how those damages could affect displacement, access to goods, jobs, and safety or loss of life, with at least two cause-and-effect links.

ANSWER KEY

After the Flood

GRADE 6 · 6.C.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show why people left their homes or died, circle two causes of shortages, and number two ways the storm interrupted work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the failed levees in New Orleans lead to both displacement and loss of life?	**The failed levees allowed floodwater into the city. Flooded homes forced residents to leave, and people trapped in flooded buildings faced danger and died.**
2	Why could bottled water and groceries be hard to buy even for families with money?	**Flooded streets slowed deliveries, while damaged stores and power outages made it hard for stores to stock and sell goods.**
3	How did damage to fishing boats and docks affect people who worked along the coast?	**The damage kept some crews from working, which interrupted their ability to earn money.**
4	How could families moving away make it harder for local businesses to recover?	**Families spent money on travel and temporary housing instead of at local businesses. People who moved far away also could not easily return to their old jobs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Damaged homes could force families to move into shelters until repairs are made. If the warehouse and bridge are damaged, food deliveries could slow, leaving fewer groceries to buy. Store workers could lose pay when the warehouse cannot send goods. Falling walls could kill people, while moving to safe places might protect others.

Accept other cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For Your Turn, look for four sentences addressing displacement, goods, jobs, and safety or loss of life, with at least two clear links between damage and its effects.