

14 I can describe natural disasters

A Types of disaster



Hurricane¹: this word is used especially of storms in the western Atlantic. It is a **violent** storm with very strong winds. In other parts of the world, especially Asia, it is called a **typhoon**.

Earthquake²: a **sudden** violent movement of the **ground** causing **damage**.

Tidal wave³: a very large ocean wave that is caused by a storm or

earthquake, and which **destroys** things when it reaches land.

Volcanic eruption⁴: a **volcano** is a mountain with a hole in the top, and when it **erupts**, hot gases and **lava** are forced out into the air and onto the **surrounding** land.

Drought⁵: a long period with no rain. **Crops** die, and people may **starve to death**.

Glossary

- disaster** a very bad event, causing harm or death.
- violent** very strong and usually causing damage. **violence** N.
- sudden** happening very quickly. **suddenly** ADV.
- ground** the top part of the earth's surface that people walk on.
- damage** harm or injury caused when sth is broken. **damage** v.
- destroy sth** break sth completely so it can't be used again. **destruction** N.
- erupt** explode and throw out fire, burning rocks, etc.
- lava** hot liquid rock (*see picture*).
- surrounding** that is near or around sth. **surroundings** N.
- crops** plants that are grown for food, e.g. rice and potatoes.
- starve (to death)** suffer (or die) because you don't have enough food.

1 Combine five more pairs of words from the box to form compound words or phrases.

earth ✓ volcanic tidal surrounding starve land
eruption violent wave quake ✓ to death storm


▶ earthquake _____

2 What nouns are formed from these adjectives and verbs?

▶ volcanic volcano 2 violent _____ 4 surrounding _____
1 destroy _____ 3 erupt _____ 5 damage _____

3 Complete the words in the sentences.

- ▶ When the tidal wave reached land, it was over ten metres high.
- 1 During the h_____, winds reached over 150 kph, and many homes were either completely d_____ or badly d_____. It was a terrible d_____ for the island.
 - 2 They expect a period of d_____ : the c_____ will die and people could s_____.
 - 3 The volcano e_____ without warning and the g_____ was covered in red, hot l_____.
 - 4 There was a s_____ and v_____ storm. It was the beginning of the t_____.

4  Test yourself. Cover the texts and look at the pictures. Can you name each disaster and what happens?