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 AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS
 

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Chapters 1-2

## Making Compounds

Two words combined form a compound. Each word in Box A forms the first part of a compound. Each word in Box B forms the second part. In the blank in each sentence below, write the compound that best completes the sentence. Use a word from each box to make your compounds.

Box A	
dinner	base
ferry	free
camp	fire
news	mud
river	out
pipe	

Box B	
grounds	time
fighters	boys
doors	ball
flows	way
boats	bed
lines	

**Example:** People standing \_\_\_\_\_ *outdoors* \_\_\_\_\_ stopped talking and froze in fear.

- \_\_\_\_\_ at the foot of the mountain had been closed for weeks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ sped downward.
- \_\_\_\_\_ called out the latest business happenings in San Francisco.
- Many people hoped to board the few \_\_\_\_\_ leaving for the city of Oakland.

(continued)




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 AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS
 

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Chapters 1–2

## Finding Base Words

Each word below has been made by adding an ending such as *-ly*, *-ed*, or *-ing* to a base word. On the blank beside each word, write the base word.

**Example:** preparing \_\_\_\_\_ *prepare* \_\_\_\_\_

- |                 |       |                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. recognized   | _____ | 11. shaking     | _____ |
| 2. observation  | _____ | 12. families    | _____ |
| 3. larger       | _____ | 13. proudly     | _____ |
| 4. eastern      | _____ | 14. loyalty     | _____ |
| 5. awaken       | _____ | 15. injured     | _____ |
| 6. youngest     | _____ | 16. heavily     | _____ |
| 7. eruption     | _____ | 17. frantically | _____ |
| 8. volcanic     | _____ | 18. peaceful    | _____ |
| 9. legendary    | _____ | 19. density     | _____ |
| 10. continental | _____ | 20. occurred    | _____ |



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**AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS**

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Chapters 1–2

## Adding Endings

Read each sentence. Then look at the word shown in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Add an ending such as *-ed*, *-ing*, *-s*, or *-er* to the word to make it fit in the sentence. Remember, you may need to change the word when you add the ending. Write the new word in the blank.

**Example:** Sleepy Mount St. Helens \_\_\_\_\_ *stirred* \_\_\_\_\_ and rumbled. (stir)

1. Citizens masked themselves like bandits to keep from \_\_\_\_\_. (choke)
2. Downstream, sediment and \_\_\_\_\_ trees surged into the Columbia River. (broke)
3. Beautiful wilderness was destroyed almost \_\_\_\_\_. (instant)
4. Today volcano experts watch Redoubt Volcano \_\_\_\_\_. (careful)
5. The plates float on the earth's mantle of hotter and \_\_\_\_\_ rock. (soft)
6. San Francisco's new, \_\_\_\_\_ city hall tumbled into rubble. (expense)
7. Frantic to escape, citizens \_\_\_\_\_ one another for space on the boats. (trample)
8. Building on the shaky soil was a \_\_\_\_\_ gamble. (danger)
9. The tremor brought the \_\_\_\_\_ earthquake to strike an urban area since the disaster at San Francisco in 1906. (strong)
10. Two high schools were completely destroyed, and most other \_\_\_\_\_ lost buildings. (campus)



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**AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS**

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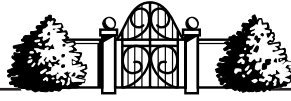
Chapters 3–4

## Classifying Word Groups

Read the following sentences. Decide if the italicized part of the sentence tells you *where*, *when*, or *how*. Underline the correct choice.

- Example:** The wind propelled bricks *with great force*.                    where    when    how
1. *Almost daily*, newspapers reported a blaze in some area.                    where    when    how
2. Worried firefighters responded *quickly* to each report.                    where    when    how
3. The cow kicked the lantern over *into some straw*.                    where    when    how
4. People saw glowing flames dancing *between the slats of the humble barn*.                    where    when    how
5. *Carried by the wind*, millions of sparks and firebrands filled the air.                    where    when    how
6. *By 1:00 a.m. on October 9*, the fire was still running forward in great walls of flame.                    where    when    how
7. Frantic citizens ran *through the streets*.                    where    when    how
8. *In a few minutes*, the “fireproof” waterworks was no more.                    where    when    how
9. *Frantically*, the librarians at the Chicago Historical Society fought to save the city’s most precious document.                    where    when    how
10. A cargo ship exploded *in the harbor*.                    where    when    how

(continued)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

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Chapters 3–4

### Remembering Details

The following questions are about some of the information in the book. Write the answers on the lines below the questions. Be sure to use complete sentences.

1. Who does a popular legend blame for starting the Great Chicago Fire? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What important document were the librarians at the Chicago Historical Society trying to save? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus's secret disaster warning? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is a tidal surge? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What were the nuns and children doing as the hurricane smashed its way through the orphanage? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the people of Galveston build after the 1900 hurricane? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who ordered the building of a rock dike around Lake Okeechobee? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

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Chapters 3–4

### Classifying Words

In each group of words below, one word does not belong with the others. Draw a line through the word that does not belong. Then decide what the other three words have in common. Write your answer on the blank line after the words.

**Example:** dresses jackets ~~coops~~ hats

They are all articles of clothing \_\_\_\_\_.

1. lamp                      lantern                      sun                      waterworks

They are all \_\_\_\_\_.

2. trucks                      planks                      rafts                      ships

They are all \_\_\_\_\_.

3. residents                      villages                      shacks                      mansions

They are all \_\_\_\_\_.

4. cows                      horses                      snakes                      shells

They are all \_\_\_\_\_.

5. cool                      hot                      surf                      muggy

They are all \_\_\_\_\_.

6. lake                      high-wire act                      clowns                      animals

They are all \_\_\_\_\_.

(continued)





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## AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

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Chapters 3–4

### **Making Inferences**

Read each of the questions below. Then read the three possible answers. Think about what happened in chapters 3 and 4 of *America's Greatest Natural Disasters*. Use what you know to choose the best answer for each question. Circle the number next to the answer you choose.

**a.** Why did the firefighters respond quickly to each report of the smallest flame?

1. The firefighters had nothing better to do.
2. The firefighters were worried the small flames would turn into large blazes.
3. The firefighters were paid extra for each fire they put out, no matter how small.

**b.** Why did the wealthy people grab their jewelry and paintings before leaving their mansions?

1. They hoped to later trade them for food or shelter.
2. The paintings and jewelry were beautiful.
3. They did not want to leave their valuables behind.

(continued)



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**AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS**

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Chapters 5–6

## **Discovering Meaning Through Context**

Read the following sentences. Three meanings are given for each italicized word. Use the context of the sentence to figure out which meaning is correct. Underline the correct meaning.

**Example:** Many people had just built *modern* homes in Johnstown.

new                      old                      ruined

1. A tornado is a *fierce* storm that causes much destruction.

exciting                      gentle                      strong

2. Boats on the Mississippi *capsized*, leaving people stranded in the water.

floated                      overturned                      raced

3. The tornado *leveled* everything in its path, leaving nothing standing.

missed                      flattened                      fixed

4. Floodwaters *ruin* crops and kill everything they cover.

destroy                      strengthen                      harvest

5. It is estimated that 156 million tons of rain fell during the *catastrophic* flood of 1937. At least 250 people were killed.

interesting                      rich                      damaging

(continued)



AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

Chapters 5-6

Determining Cause and Effect

To determine a cause, ask "What is the reason?" To determine an effect, ask "What is the result?" Match the causes and effects below. Write the number of the cause in front of its effect.

Cause

Effect

- 1. Record keeping in the late 1880s was limited. \_\_\_\_\_ Exact figures of the 1884 tornado damage are unknown.
2. The people could tell a storm was coming. \_\_\_\_\_ The wind scalped animals in the fields.
3. The twister struck the southwestern part of St. Louis. \_\_\_\_\_ The people hurried to find shelter.
4. Hot, wet air moving up from the Gulf of California met cold air over Colorado. \_\_\_\_\_ A series of eight severe tornadoes formed.
5. The storm's winds had been extremely violent. \_\_\_\_\_ A racetrack and a school in St. Louis were destroyed.

- 1. Heavy rains fell on the Missouri River Valley. \_\_\_\_\_ The dam used to provide water for the canal was abandoned.
2. The cities grew larger. \_\_\_\_\_ Property damage rose with each new disaster.
3. Railroads had replaced the canal system. \_\_\_\_\_ The railroad engineer backed his train up the mountain.
4. The dam had drainage canals. \_\_\_\_\_ Water could be released from the dam in times of flooding.
5. A railroad engineer saw the wall of water hurtling toward his train. \_\_\_\_\_ The Missouri River rose 35 feet.



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## AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

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Chapters 5–6

### Getting the Main Idea

Read each of the following paragraphs. Then read the four sentences below each paragraph. Choose the sentence that best states the main idea of the paragraph. Then neatly copy that sentence on the line provided.

**a.** Within the United States is an area weatherpeople call Tornado Alley. This broad region includes Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Another pocket of activity can sometimes be found in Illinois, Indiana, and parts of Michigan and Ohio. No part of the country is safe, but most tornado activity occurs in these areas.

1. Michigan and Ohio are not in the alley.
2. Weatherpeople work in the United States.
3. Most tornado activity occurs in specific areas of the United States.
4. There are a lot of tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas.

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**b.** A mighty tornado slammed into a city shelter for the homeless, a facility for the mentally ill, and a hospital. Boats on the Mississippi capsized. Hundreds of buildings were destroyed. One weather expert placed the twister's core top speed at 560 miles per hour!

1. The twister's top speed was 560 miles per hour.
2. The twister capsized boats on the Mississippi.
3. The mighty twister flattened buildings.
4. The mighty tornado destroyed everything in its path.

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(continued)




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 AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS
 

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Chapters 7–8

## Using a Pronunciation Key

Use the key at the bottom of the page to help pronounce the respelled words. Write the word correctly spelled on the line beside the Respelled Word. Use the Word List to help figure out the Respelled Word.

### Respelled Word

### Word List

**Example:** (me' də sən)          *medicine*      

epidemic

1. (fā' mes)    \_\_\_\_\_

journey

2. (ko' lə rə)    \_\_\_\_\_

levees

3. (fā' təl)    \_\_\_\_\_

survive

4. (fôr' chənz)    \_\_\_\_\_

famous

5. (jur' nē)    \_\_\_\_\_

schooners

6. (skōō' nurs)    \_\_\_\_\_

adequate

7. (fôrsd)    \_\_\_\_\_

cholera

8. (frō' zən)    \_\_\_\_\_

immediately

9. (sur vīv')

forced

10. (e pə de' mik)    \_\_\_\_\_

fortunes

11. (a' di kwət)    \_\_\_\_\_

science

12. (i mē' dē ət lē)    \_\_\_\_\_

frozen

13. (le' vēz)    \_\_\_\_\_

~~medicine~~

14. (sī' ənts)    \_\_\_\_\_

fatal

pat/ cāke/ cār/ pet/ mē/ it/ nīce/ pot/ cōld/ nôrth/

book/ fōol/ boil/ out/ cup/ mūle/ burn/ sing/ thin/

this/ hw in white/ zh in pleasure/ ə in about

The ' mark indicates an accented syllable.




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 AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS
 

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Chapters 7–8

## Choosing Correct Meanings

The italicized word in each of the sentences below has several meanings. Some of the meanings are listed in the Glossary. Decide which meaning the word has in the sentence. Then write the number of your choice on the blank.

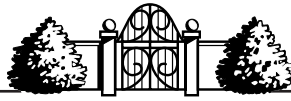
### Glossary

- cross** 1. to go from one side to the other 2. to meet or pass along the way 3. to occur to  
4. angry
- cut** 1. to strike with a sharp object 2. to stop 3. to cross 4. wound
- foot** 1. the lowest part 2. the end part of the leg 3. unit of length equal to 12 inches  
4. walking or running
- low** 1. deep sound of an animal 2. below the normal amount 3. not loud; soft
- trail** 1. fade 2. to lag, or fall, behind 3. path through the wilderness

**Example:**   2   The child's *foot* had been frostbitten.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Nine families voted to *cut* through the mountains.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Only the soft *low* of the cattle could be heard in the still night air.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. For some time, the Donners and James Reed had heard stories of a cutoff from the regular *trail*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The men spoke in *low* tones as they discussed the cutoff.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The two groups went their separate ways hoping their paths would *cross* again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. In many places, the men were forced to *cut* down trees and hack away brambles to make a path for the prairie schooners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. It made James Reed quite *cross* to see John Snyder whip his tired oxen.

(continued)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

Chapters 7–8

### Using Guide Words

At the top of each dictionary page are guide words. These words are the first and last words on a dictionary page. The other words on the page fall in alphabetical order between the guide words.

Put the words in the word box in alphabetical order under the correct guide words. The first one has been done for you.

property	mountains	fathers
history	knife	group
expedition	passages	ships
oxen	leaves	medical
antelope	drifts	fires
journal	cabins	<del>action</del>

**act—fin**

**final—march**

**mare—tongue**

1.     *action*    

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS

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### **Recalling an Event**

Think about the tragedy of the Donner party. Then describe this event to someone who has not read the book. Remember to include details about the setting, why the group divided, how the members felt, and the final outcome.

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 AMERICA'S GREATEST NATURAL DISASTERS
 

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## Twenty-Question Test

**Directions:** Match each glossary word and its meaning.

- |       |            |                                     |
|-------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. dormant | a. crack in the earth's crust       |
| _____ | 2. fault   | b. to send out energy in waves      |
| _____ | 3. magma   | c. railroad bridge                  |
| _____ | 4. radiate | d. hot liquid deep within the earth |
| _____ | 5. trestle | e. inactive state                   |

**Directions:** Answer each statement True (T) or False (F).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mauna Loa makes up more than half the island of Hawaii.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The earth's crust is made up of hot, soft rock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Great Chicago Fire began in a restaurant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Tornadoes are disasters that are common worldwide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The 1918 influenza epidemic began on an army base in Kansas.

**Directions:** Choose the best answer to complete each statement.

11. Most of the continent of North America was formed by
- earthquakes.
  - avalanches.
  - volcanoes.
12. Earthquakes are measured by
- a Geiger counter.
  - the Richter scale.
  - a sonogram.
13. The librarians of the Chicago Historical Society fought to save the original copy of Abraham Lincoln's
- Emancipation Proclamation.
  - Gettysburg Address.
  - inaugural address.

(continued)