

After the Floods

Millions recover from the raging waters in Pakistan.

Anar Gul used to live in a four-bedroom house. Now he and his nine family members share a single tent. Mattresses, blankets, clothes, and a broken tape player are all that they have left. "This is everything," Gul says.



AP Images

A Pakistani girl waits for aid workers to arrive with food and water.

He was one of more than 17 million people affected by **massive**, or giant, floods in Pakistan in 2010. The floods were the worst in the southern Asian nation's history. The powerful currents flowed across about one-fifth of the country and killed more than 1,600 people.

International aid workers and the U.S. military are trying to help. They are delivering food, clean water, and other supplies. Gul hopes that even more help is on the way. "There are so many houses to be rebuilt," he says. "It's not only [in my village]; it's everywhere."



AP Images

Families carry their belongings through water in southern Pakistan.

Washed Away

Pakistan has heavy rains every summer. But 2010's rain gushed out of control. It caused the Indus River and other waterways to flood. Much of the water began in the northern areas of Pakistan. As the floods moved south, they left about 62,000 square miles underwater. That is bigger than the state of Georgia.

Millions of people fled to higher ground. They watched helplessly as the floods swept away entire towns. More than 1.2 million homes were ruined. The floods also destroyed about 7,000 schools and more than 400 health-care facilities.

In addition, the water ruined countless bridges and more than 5,000 miles of roads and railroad tracks. Losing those passageways has made it harder for aid workers to reach some of the people who need help. Many areas are now **accessible**, or able to be reached, only by air.

"In northern areas that are cut off ... people are in need of food ... to **survive** [or live]. There is currently no other way to reach these flood victims than by helicopter," says Marcus Prior. He works for an aid group called the World Food Programme.

The United States has supplied more than 30 aircraft for the aid efforts. U.S. Marine Captain Matt Wesenberg is one of the pilots who have dropped off supplies.

"We are out there helping them, bringing food and **evacuating** people," he says. To evacuate is to move from a dangerous place to a safer area.



AFP/Getty Images

A Pakistani soldier rescues a boy whose village was flooded.

Long Road to Recovery

Aid workers are taking care of people's basic needs now. But world leaders say a full recovery will take years—in part because Pakistan was home to millions of poor people before the floods. The nation will need to rebuild much of its **infrastructure**. That is public services, including roads, power and water supplies, schools, and public transportation.

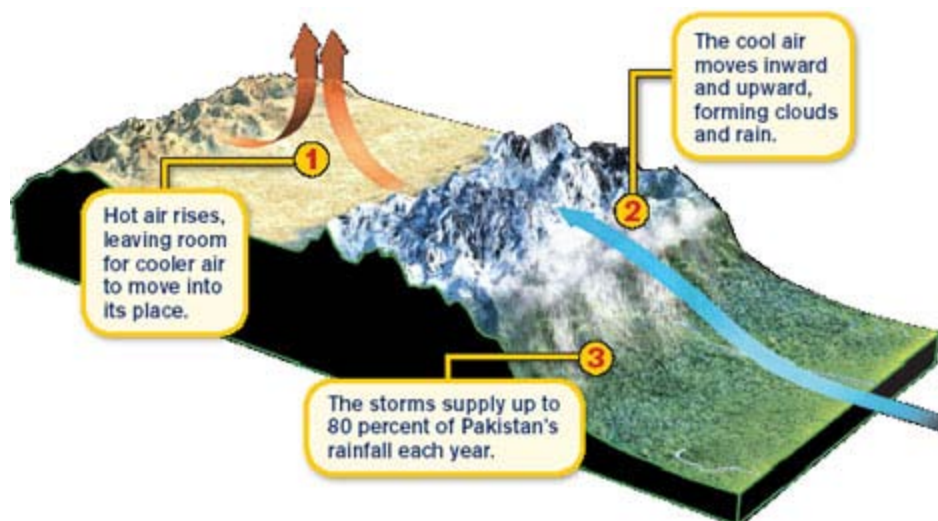
Many of the country's people will need help for some time. A large number of residents farm for a living. But the floods washed away crops and soil.

The U.S. government last year promised \$7.5 billion to improve Pakistan's water and electricity systems over a five-year period. Now, at least some of that money will be used for recovery efforts.

World leaders are trying to remain positive about the future. "This is a huge-scale disaster," says Rajiv Shah. He is in charge of the U.S. Agency for International Development. "But we have to continue to be optimistic."

Wild Wind

Heavy rain is always in the forecast for Pakistan in summer. Southern Asia experiences a **monsoon** season around that time each year. A monsoon is a change in wind direction. It often brings strong rainfall.



DK Images

Spotlight on Pakistan

Size: 307,374 square miles (almost twice as big as California)

Population: about 187 million people (more than half of the U.S. population)

Land: desert, with mountains in the north; about one-fourth of the land is farmable

Religion: Islam; roughly 95 percent of the population practices this religion

Literacy: About half of people age 15 and older can read and write; only 36 percent of the women can



Getty Images

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. As stated in the passage, which of the following were harmed by the floods?

- A cars and bicycles
- B homes and schools
- C rain and wind
- D restaurants and hotels

2. The author describes how hard it is to help people in northern areas given that there has been a lot of damage to roads and bridges. What is one solution to this problem stated in the passage?

- A sending soldiers in by parachute with food and supplies
- B building new schools and hospitals
- C sending food and supplies by helicopter
- D making better predictions about the weather

3. It can be concluded from the passage that

- A more flooding in the future would make the problems in Pakistan even worse.
- B there will never again be flooding this bad in Pakistan.
- C the government in Pakistan is well prepared to deal with future floods.
- D international aid workers are happy to help flood victims in Pakistan.

4. In the passage it states, "The United States has supplied more than 30 aircraft for the aid efforts." As used in this example, **aid** means:

- A problems
- B assistance
- C drinks
- D money

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe:

- A building new villages in Pakistan
- B flooding in Pakistan and efforts to help
- C weather patterns in Pakistan
- D bringing food and water to Pakistan

6. Describe three problems caused by the flooding in Pakistan. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

7. Why might it be hard for Pakistan to recover quickly from the flood?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

It is hard for aid workers to reach people who need help _____ the flood ruined many bridges, roads, and railroad tracks.

- A but
- B because
- C so
- D before

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 2010, millions of people in Pakistan suffered due to giant floods that hit that country.

Who? millions of people

(did) What? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: massive (mas · sive): giant or huge in size.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **massive**.

1. The child was thrilled to get a massive amount of candy on Valentine's Day.
2. The hamburger was so massive that she could not fit it into her mouth.
3. The massive tree fell onto the road during the storm, and it took several days to move it so cars could pass again.
4. The massive coffee mug held 64 ounces of coffee!
5. The little baby had a massive head compared to the rest of his body.

10b. Which of the pictures below shows something massive?



11. If you washed two t-shirts, would that be a massive load of laundry?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 760

Featured Text Structure: Problem/Solution – the writer poses a problem and suggests possible solutions

Passage Summary: The passage describes the damage caused by floods in Pakistan and the help that is needed for recovery. Millions were affected by severe flooding, and much rebuilding is necessary.

1. As stated in the passage, which of the following were harmed by the floods?

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6. Describe three problems caused by the flooding in Pakistan. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Homes were ruined, schools and health-care facilities were destroyed, and bridges and roads were ruined. This last problem (damage to bridges and roads) makes it hard for help to reach people who need it. [paragraphs 5-6]

7. Why might it be hard for Pakistan to recover quickly from the flood?

Suggested answer: It might be hard because so much damage was done, and because Pakistan is a poor country without many resources. [paragraphs 5-6, 10-11]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

It is hard for aid workers to reach people who need help _____ the flood ruined many bridges, roads, and railroad tracks.

- A but
- B because**
- C so
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9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 2010, millions of people in Pakistan suffered due to giant floods that hit that country.

Who? millions of people

(did) What? **suffered**

Where? **in Pakistan**

When? **in 2010**

Why? **due to giant floods**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: massive

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (mas · sive)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is massive. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "massive."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Massive means giant or huge in size."
- b. Teacher says: "In the text, we learn that there have been massive, or huge, floods in Pakistan. These floods are so big that they have swept away whole villages and towns and killed more than a thousand people."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "massive."]

Step 3: Practice the word

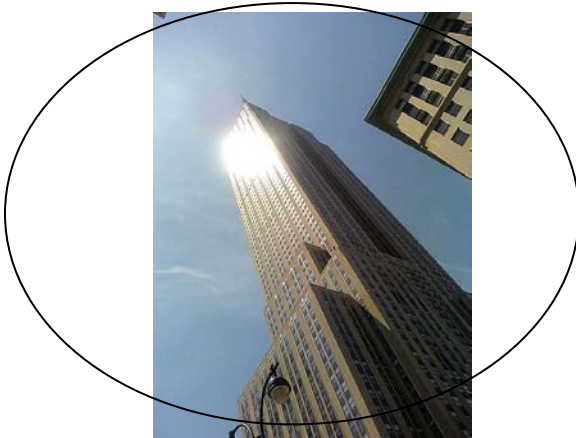
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.** 1. The child was thrilled to get a massive amount of candy on Valentine's Day.
2. The hamburger was so massive that she could not fit it into her mouth.
3. The massive tree fell onto the road during the storm, and it took several days to move it so cars could pass again.
4. The massive coffee mug held 64 ounces of coffee!
5. The little baby had a massive head compared to the rest of his body.

Step 4: Check for student understanding.

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which of the pictures below shows something massive?



- 11.** If you washed two t-shirts, would that be a massive load of laundry?

Suggested answer: No, two t-shirts would not be considered a massive amount of laundry because massive means giant or huge in size and two t-shirts is a small amount!

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: raging, aid, gush, survive, evacuate