

Rebuilding After the Quake: A City's Path to Recovery

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

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Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck San Luis last March, the city found itself in a state of disarray and chaos. Buildings crumbled, roads cracked open, and many residents were left homeless and without basic necessities. The local government quickly mobilized resources to assess the extensive damage and prioritize the urgent needs of the affected community. Within weeks, temporary shelters were set up in parks and community centers, providing a safe haven for those displaced by the disaster. Volunteers from neighboring towns arrived to lend a hand, bringing essential supplies such as food, water, and clothing, and offering emotional support to those in distress. As the initial shock wore off, a profound sense of unity emerged among the residents, who began to help one another rebuild their lives and restore their community.
- B** As recovery efforts progressed, city planners and architects collaborated closely to design a more resilient infrastructure that could better withstand future earthquakes. They focused on constructing buildings that could endure seismic activity, incorporating advanced engineering techniques and sustainable materials that would not only be durable but also environmentally friendly. The local government initiated comprehensive programs to educate residents about disaster preparedness, ensuring that everyone would be better equipped in case of another emergency. Community workshops were held regularly, where residents learned about the importance of emergency kits, evacuation plans, and safety protocols. As the city slowly returned to a sense of normalcy, the spirit of resilience and hope shone brightly among the residents, proving that together, they could overcome even the most challenging obstacles and emerge stronger than before.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
aftermath	the time after a bad event when people deal with its effects	<i>In the aftermath of the storm, many trees were down.</i>
disarray	a state of being messy or not organized	<i>After the party, the house was in complete disarray.</i>
mobilized	when people or resources are gathered and made ready for use	<i>The fire department mobilized quickly to fight the forest fire.</i>
displaced	having to leave home because of danger or problems	<i>The flood displaced many families from their homes.</i>
resilient	able to recover quickly from difficult situations	<i>Children can be very resilient after moving to a new city.</i>
seismic	relating to or caused by an earthquake	<i>The seismic activity in the area caused several small tremors.</i>
sustainable	using methods that do not harm the environment	<i>We need to find sustainable ways to use our resources.</i>
protocols	set rules or procedures for doing something, especially in emergencies	<i>The school has fire protocols to keep students safe.</i>

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The city was in complete _____ after the earthquake.
2. The government quickly _____ resources to help the affected areas.
3. Many families were _____ from their homes due to the flooding.
4. New buildings are designed to be more _____ to withstand earthquakes.
5. The _____ activity was monitored closely by scientists.
6. The factory uses _____ practices to protect the environment.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

What did temporary shelters provide for the displaced residents?

- A. Jobs and employment opportunities
- B. A safe place and basic supplies
- C. New permanent homes
- D. Educational classes

Question 2

Why did city planners use sustainable materials in rebuilding?

- A. To save money on building costs
- B. To ensure buildings are colorful
- C. To make buildings environmentally friendly
- D. To make buildings taller and stronger

Question 3

How did the community workshops help residents?

- A. By offering free meals and clothing
- B. By teaching them about disaster preparedness
- C. By providing jobs in construction
- D. By entertaining them with music and games

Question 4

What was the role of volunteers from neighboring towns?

- A. They built new roads and infrastructure.
- B. They provided emotional support and supplies.
- C. They led the city planning efforts.
- D. They offered financial assistance to the government.

Question 5

What was a major goal of the new educational programs?

- A. To improve the literacy rate
- B. To prepare residents for future emergencies
- C. To teach residents how to build homes
- D. To promote cultural events in the city

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. Paragraph A describes how volunteers brought essential supplies and emotional support. How important is community help in times of crisis, and can you think of any similar examples in your country?

2. The passage explains that city planners used sustainable materials for rebuilding. What are some benefits and challenges of using such materials in construction projects where you live?

3. According to Paragraph B, community workshops were held to educate residents on disaster preparedness. Do you think these types of workshops would be effective in your community? Why or why not?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 C

Q3 B

Q4 B

Q5 B

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 disarray

FIB2 mobilized

FIB3 displaced

FIB4 resilient

FIB5 seismic

FIB6 sustainable

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. What did temporary shelters provide for the displaced residents?

✓ B — A safe place and basic supplies Temporary shelters provided a safe haven and essential supplies as mentioned in the first paragraph.

✗ A — Jobs and employment opportunities The passage does not mention jobs being provided in the shelters.

✗ C — New permanent homes The shelters were temporary, not permanent homes.

✗ D — Educational classes Educational classes were not mentioned as part of the shelter services.

2. Why did city planners use sustainable materials in rebuilding?

✓ C — To make buildings environmentally friendly The passage mentions that sustainable materials were used to be environmentally friendly.

✗ A — To save money on building costs The focus was on environmental friendliness, not cost-saving.

✗ B — To ensure buildings are colorful Color was not a factor mentioned in the passage.

✗ D — To make buildings taller and stronger The focus was on durability and being environmentally friendly, not height.

3. How did the community workshops help residents?

✓ B — By teaching them about disaster preparedness Workshops taught residents about disaster preparedness, as noted in the passage.

✗ A — By offering free meals and clothing The workshops focused on education, not providing meals or clothing.

✗ C — By providing jobs in construction Job provision was not mentioned as a function of the workshops.

✗ D — By entertaining them with music and games Entertainment was not the purpose of the workshops.

4. What was the role of volunteers from neighboring towns?

✓ B — They provided emotional support and supplies. Volunteers brought supplies and offered emotional support, as indicated in the first paragraph.

✗ A — They built new roads and infrastructure. Building roads was not mentioned as a role of the volunteers.

✗ C — They led the city planning efforts. City planning was done by planners and architects, not volunteers.

✗ D — They offered financial assistance to the government. Financial assistance was not mentioned in the passage.

5. What was a major goal of the new educational programs?

✓ **B — To prepare residents for future emergencies**

The programs aimed to educate residents on disaster preparedness, as mentioned in the passage.

✗ **A — To improve the literacy rate**

Literacy improvement was not mentioned.

✗ **C — To teach residents how to build homes**

Home building was not the focus of the educational programs.

✗ **D — To promote cultural events in the city**

Cultural events were not part of the program's goals.

MORE B2 LEVEL READING PRACTICE

Letters Refugee Camp Family Story Hope — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/letters-refugee-camp-family-story-hope>

Global Health Preparedness Lessons Recent Pandemics — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/global-health-preparedness-lessons-recent-pandemics>

Climate Migration Communities Move — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/climate-migration-communities-move>