

Natural Disasters in Australia

Upper Primary Advance Science

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below.

Australia is known for its beautiful beaches, vast deserts, and amazing wildlife, but it is also a land that experiences many natural disasters. These are powerful events caused by nature that can harm people, animals, and the environment. Some of the most common natural disasters in Australia include bushfires, floods, cyclones, and droughts. Each of these disasters affects the country in different ways, but Australians have learned to prepare for and recover from them.



One of the most dangerous natural disasters in Australia is the bushfire. Bushfires are common during the hot, dry summer months, especially in states such as New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia. A bushfire can start from a lightning strike, strong winds, or even human activities like campfires left unattended. Once it starts, it can spread quickly through dry grass and forests. Bushfires destroy homes, farms, and wildlife habitats, and the thick smoke can make it hard to breathe. The Black Summer fires of 2019-2020 were some of the worst in Australian history, burning millions of hectares of land. Firefighters worked day and night to protect communities and save animals.

Floods are another natural disaster that often affect parts of Australia. After heavy rain or tropical storms, rivers can overflow and flood nearby towns. Floods can wash away roads, crops, and buildings, leaving families stranded and communities damaged. For example, in early 2022, large floods hit Queensland and New South Wales, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes. However, floods can also help the environment by bringing water to dry land and supporting new plant growth.

In northern Australia, tropical cyclones are a major threat. Cyclones are strong, spinning storms that form over warm ocean waters. They bring heavy rain, strong winds, and large waves. When a cyclone reaches land, it can knock down trees, damage houses, and cut off electricity. Cyclone Tracy, which struck Darwin in 1974, destroyed most of the city and changed the way Australians prepared for storms. Today, early warning systems and emergency shelters help keep people safer during cyclone season.

Droughts are another problem that Australia faces, especially in inland areas. A drought happens when there is very little rainfall for a long time. This causes rivers and dams to dry up, making it difficult for farmers to grow crops or feed their animals. Droughts also increase the risk of bushfires and make water conservation more important than ever. Australians have learned to use water wisely by installing water tanks, planting drought-resistant plants, and recycling water where possible.

Although natural disasters can cause great damage, they also bring out the best in communities. People come together to help one another, rebuild homes, and protect the environment. By understanding natural disasters and preparing for them, Australians can stay safe and resilient in the face of nature's challenges.

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Questions

Decide if each statement is True or False. Circle it.

1. Bushfires in Australia only happen in winter. (True / False)
2. The Black Summer fires occurred in 2019–2020 and burned millions of hectares. (True / False)
3. Floods do not always harm the environment; they can also benefit it in some ways. (True / False)

Answer these questions.

4. Name two causes of bushfires mentioned in the passage.

5. Give one way Australians save water during droughts.

Fill in the blanks.

6. Cyclones form over warm _____ waters in northern Australia.
7. During a drought, rivers and _____ dry up.
8. Floods in 2022 affected Queensland and _____.

Natural Disasters in Australia - Solutions

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Questions

Decide if each statement is True or False. Circle it.

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Answer these questions.

4. Name two causes of bushfires mentioned in the passage.

Lightning strikes, strong winds, or human activities like

unattended campfires.

5. Give one way Australians save water during droughts.

By installing water tanks, planting drought-resistant

plants, or recycling water.

Fill in the blanks.

6. Cyclones form over warm ocean waters in northern Australia.
7. During a drought, rivers and dams dry up.
8. Floods in 2022 affected Queensland and New South Wales.