Disasters in the world  
**Flood**- become covered in water;

**Raging flood** - flood with great force or violence;

**Drought** - a long period when there is no rain and people do not have enough water;

**Decades of drought** - a period of ten years when there is no rain and people do not have enough water;

**Tornado** - an extremely strong and dangerous wind that blows in a circle and destroys buildings as it moves along;

**To predict** - to say what you think will happen in the future;

**Tsunami**- an extremely large wave caused by a violent movement of the earth under the sea;

**Earthquake** - a sudden violent movement of the earth's surface, sometimes causing great damage;

**Devastating**- causing a lot of damage or destruction;

**Hurricane**- a violent wind that has a circular movement, especially in the West Atlantic Ocean;

**Eye of a hurricane** - the centre of a violent wind that has a circular movement;

**Landslide** - a mass of rock and earth moving suddenly and quickly down a steep slope;

**Trigger** - an event or situation, etc. that causes something bad to start;

**Volcanic eruption** - when a volcano erupts, it explodes and flames and rocks come out of it;

**Heat wave** - a period of days during which the weather is much hotter than usual;

**Avalanche** - a large amount of ice, snow, and rock falling quickly down the side of a mountain.

**Examples:**

*The town was****flooded****when the river burst its banks.*

*A severe****drought****ruined the crops.*

*In 1906 an****earthquake****destroyed much of San Francisco.*

*The drought has had****devastating****consequences/effects.*

Natural disasters  
**Thunder**- the sudden loud noise that comes from the sky especially during a storm;

**Lightning** - a flash of bright light in the sky that is produced by electricity moving between clouds or from clouds to the ground;

**Cyclone** - a violent tropical storm or wind in which the air moves very fast in a circular direction;

**Storm** - an extreme weather condition with very strong wind, heavy rain, and often thunder and lightning;

**Charge** - to put electricity into an electrical device such as a battery;

**Damage** - to harm or spoil something;

**Induce**- to cause something to happen;

**Thunderstorm** - a storm with thunder and lightning and usually heavy rain;

**Cause**- to make something happen, especially something bad;

**Blizzard** - a severe snow storm with strong winds;

**Typhoon**- a violent wind that has a circular movement, found in the West Pacific Ocean;

**Extreme** - very large in amount or degree;

**Clockwise** - in the direction in which the hands (= thin parts that point) of a clock move;

**Interplay** - the effect that two or more things have on each other;

**Wildfire**- a fire that is burning strongly and out of control on an area of grass or bushes in the countryside.

**Examples:**

*There was a clap of****thunder****and then it started to pour with rain.*

*Have you ever been struck by****lightning****?*

*A lot of trees came down in the****storm****.*

*We once got stuck in a****blizzard****for six hours.*

People's actions and disasters

**Emergency** - an unexpected and dangerous situation that must be dealt with immediately;

**Relief operation** - actions to help somebody in an emergency;

**Be under way** - to have started to happen or be done(is being carried out);

**Makeshift**- made to be used for a short time only when nothing better is available;

**Richter scale** - a system used to measure the strength of an earthquake;

**Under the rubble** - in or to a position below  the piles of broken stone and bricks, etc. that are left when a building falls down or is destroyed;

**Collapse** - to fall down suddenly because of pressure or having no strength or suppor;

**Rescue workers** - people who help someone or something out of a dangerous, harmful, or unpleasant situation;

**Medical supplies** - things related to the treatment of illness and injuries that are needed for people every day;

**Cope with** - to deal successfully with a difficult situation;

**Shelter** - (a building designed to give) protection from bad weather, danger, or attack.

**Examples:**

*Thousands of buildings****collapsed****in the earthquake.*

*They opened a****shelter****to provide temporary housing for the city's homeless.*

*The****emergency services****are working at full stretch today to cope with the accident.*

*The lifeboat****rescued****the sailors from the sinking boat.*

 Disasters.   
**Deforestation** - the cutting or burning down of all the trees in an area;

**Destruction** - the act or process of destroying something: the threat of nuclear destruction;

**Destroy**- to damage something so badly that it cannot be used;

**Habitat**- the natural home of a plant or animal;  
   
**Endangered species**- a type of animal or plant that may soon no longer exist;

**Exploitation** - a situation in which someone treats someone else unfairly in order to get money or an advantage for themselves;

**Famine** - a situation in which a large number of people have little or no food for a long time and many people die;

**Starvation** - suffering or death caused by lack of food: people dying of starvation in the famine;

**Malnutrition** - illness or weakness caused by not having enough food to eat, or by not eating good food;

**Disaster** - a sudden event such as a flood, storm, or accident which causes great damage or suffering;

**Disastrous** - very bad, or ending in failure;

**Overpopulated** - a city or country that is overpopulated has too many people;

**Poverty** - the condition of being extremely poor;

**Shanty** - a small, roughly built hut made from thin sheets of wood, plastic etc that very poor people live in;

**Evaporate** - if a liquid evaporates or if something evaporates it, it changes into steam;

**Evaporation** - the process of changing from a liquid to a gas, or a change from a liquid to a gas;

**Slope** - if the ground or a surface slopes, it is higher at one end than the other;

**Waterlogged** - an area that is waterlogged is flooded with water and cannot be used;

**Mud** - wet earth that has become soft and sticky;

**Take its toll (on)** - to have a very bad effect on something or someone over a long period of time.

**Examples:**

*The polar bear's****habitat****is the icy wastes of the Arctic.*

*In 1906 an****earthquake destroyed****much of San Francisco.*

*Helping to alleviate****poverty****in developing countries also helps to reduce****environmental destruction****.*

*The vehicles got bogged down in the heavy****mud.***

**Arson**- malicious burning to destroy property;

**Barometer** - an instrument that measures atmospheric pressure;

**Beaufort scale** - a scale from 0 to 12 for the force of the wind;

**Blackout** - darkness resulting from the extinction of lights;

**Blow** - be in motion due to some air or water current;

**Cloud**- a visible mass of water or ice particles suspended at a considerable altitude;

**Crust** - a hard outer layer that covers something;

**Cumulonimbus** - a dark cloud of great vertical extent charged with electricity; associated with thunderstorms;

**Dam** - a barrier constructed to contain the flow of water;

**Erosion** - the process of wearing or grinding something down;

**Fatal** - bringing death;

**Fault** - an imperfection in an object or machine;

**Fire**- the process of combustion of inflammable materials;

**Fog** - droplets of water vapor suspended in the air near the ground;

**Force** - the influence that produces a change in a physical quantity;

**Forest fire** - an uncontrolled fire in a wooded area;

**Gale** - a strong wind moving 45-90 knots;

**Geyser**- a spring that discharges hot water and steam.

**Examples:**

*There are many****forest fires****in summer.*

*The Aswan High****Dam****is on the River Nile in Egypt.*

*Power lines were blown down and we had a****blackout****of several hours.*

*Have you ever seen****cumulonimbus****?*

**Gust** - a strong current of air;

**Hail**- precipitation of ice pellets;

**Hailstorm** - a storm during which hail falls;

**High-pressure** - aggressively and persistently persuasive;

**Iceberg** - a large mass of ice floating at sea;

**Lack** - the state of needing something that is absent or unavailable;

**Lava** - rock that in its molten form issues from volcanos;

**Low-pressure** - not forceful;

**Magma**- molten rock in the earth's crust;

**Mountain** - a land mass that projects well above its surroundings;

**Nimbus** - a dark grey cloud bearing rain;

**Permafrost**- ground that is permanently frozen;

**Rainstorm** - a storm with rain;

**Sandstorm** - a windstorm that lifts up clouds of dust or sand.

**Examples:**

*A sudden****gust****of wind blew his umbrella inside out.*

*The Matterhorn is one of the biggest****mountains****in Europe.*

*Have you ever faced with****permafrost****?*

**Seismic**- subject to or caused by an earthquake or earth vibration;

**Sinking**- a slow fall or decline (as for lack of strength);

**Stuck** - caught or fixed;

**Twister**- a localized and violently destructive windstorm occurring over land characterized by a funnel-shaped cloud extending toward the ground;

**Volt**- a unit of potential equal to the potential difference between two points on a conductor carrying a current of 1 ampere when the power dissipated between the two points is 1 watt; equivalent to the potential difference across a resistance of 1 ohm when 1 ampere of current flows through it;

**Whirlpool** - a powerful circular current of water;

**Whirlwind** - a column of air whirling around itself;

**Wind scale** - an international scale of wind force from 0 to 12;

**Wind vane** - mechanical device attached to an elevated structure;

**Wave** - (physics) a movement up and down or back and forth;

**Tremor**-  a slight earthquake;

**Underground** - beneath the surface of the earth;

**Death** - the permanent end of all life functions in an organism;

**Casualty**- someone injured or killed in an accident;

**Lost**- confused as to time or place or personal identity;

**Coast** - the shore of a sea or ocean.

**Examples:**

*There is a****seismic****activity in Asia.*

*The****tremor****was felt as far as 200 miles away.*

*The****rebels****suffered heavy****casualties.***

*Rimini is a thriving resort on the east****coast****of Italy.*

**Monster** - an imaginary creature usually having human and animal parts;

**Myth** - a traditional story serving to explain a world view;

**Science** - ability to produce solutions in some problem domain;

**Scientist**- a person with advanced knowledge of empirical fields;

**Sink**- fall or descend to a lower place or level;

**Boat** - a small vessel for travel on water;

**Uproot** - move forcibly from a homeland into a new foreign environment;

**Fate**- the ultimate agency predetermining the course of events;

**Impoverish** - make poor;

**Zap** - a sudden event that imparts energy or excitement, usually with a dramatic impact;

**Oil**- a slippery or viscous liquid or liquefiable substance not miscible with water;

**Spill** - flow, run or fall out and become lost;

**Cataclysm** - a sudden violent change in the earth's surface;

**Bermuda**- a group of islands in the Atlantic off the Carolina coast;

**Bermuda Triangle** - an area in the western Atlantic Ocean where many ships and planes are supposed to have been mysteriously lost.

**Examples:**

*Did you read about****Bermuda Triangle****last week?*

*There are many myths about****monsters****.*

*He warned that the breakdown of the family unit would lead to an****impoverished****society.*

*These countries are on the brink of****cataclysmic famine****.*