

## LESSON 2

Read this social studies article about a natural disaster. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

### Cyclone Tracy Hits Darwin

It's hard to predict just how bad a cyclone will be until it hits. On Christmas Eve, 1974, the city of Darwin was hit by what was probably the worst natural disaster in Australian history. They'd known that a cyclone was likely for a few days. But the strength of Cyclone Tracy and the damage it caused took everyone by surprise. People were unprepared. This might have been because it was Christmas. It also had something to do with the fact that the last time a cyclone warning had been put out, it had been a false alarm. Darwin hadn't suffered a bad cyclone since 1937.

But Cyclone Tracy didn't miss Darwin. When it hit, streets began to rise and fall like waves on the open sea. Forty nine people in the city were killed. Another twenty two died at sea. The city was almost completely destroyed. At the time building standards weren't as strict. This meant that homes and businesses were unable to stand up against the winds.

It was a while before people had time to survey the damage. The bill from Cyclone Tracy came to four billion dollars. But even a figure like this doesn't tell us the full story. Cyclone Tracy left a mark on Darwin that took a long time to fade.

An airlift was organised to get the people of Darwin out of the damaged city. Many residents drove themselves out of the destruction. Within a few weeks of the disaster, three quarters of the population of Darwin had fled.

It took many years to rebuild Darwin. The first job was building homes for the many thousands of people who had left the ruined city. The main result of the disaster was better building codes. These meant stronger houses and buildings that could take a vicious storm. It also meant that Darwin after 1974 was a completely different city than it had been before. The city that rose from the destruction of Cyclone Tracy grew to be a wonderful capital again. The people of Darwin were able to rise from the ashes and restore their battered city.



### Finding Main Idea

1. What is the article mostly about?
- Ⓐ major disasters of the twentieth century
  - Ⓑ cyclones that have occurred in Australia
  - Ⓒ Christmas in 1974
  - Ⓓ a major cyclone that destroyed a capital city

### Recognising Cause and Effect

4. Some people ignored the warning of the cyclone because
- Ⓐ it was Christmas, and the last warning hadn't resulted in a cyclone.
  - Ⓑ they thought their homes were strong enough to not be damaged.
  - Ⓒ people were more worried about earthquakes.
  - Ⓓ they didn't trust the government to rebuild their homes.

### Recalling Facts and Details

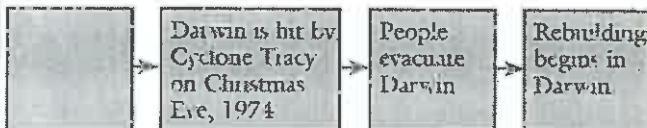
2. Before Cyclone Tracy, when was the last major cyclone to hit Darwin?
- Ⓐ a few days beforehand
  - Ⓑ 1937
  - Ⓒ Easter
  - Ⓓ 1975

### Comparing and Contrasting

5. In the article, the rising and falling of the streets in the wind is compared to
- Ⓐ the rise and fall of the sun.
  - Ⓑ Australia's worst natural disaster.
  - Ⓒ the last cyclone in 1937.
  - Ⓓ the rise and fall of ocean waves.

### Understanding Sequence

3. The boxes tell about some of the events in the article.



Which of these belongs in the empty box?

- Ⓐ 71 people are killed.
- Ⓑ Warnings are issued about a cyclone, but they are ignored.
- Ⓒ Building codes are changed.
- Ⓓ The people of Darwin were able to rise from the ashes and restore their battered city.

### Making Predictions

6. Predict which of these would most likely occur if a similar cyclone were to strike Darwin today.
- Ⓐ The city would be completely destroyed.
  - Ⓑ No one would bother to repair the damage.
  - Ⓒ The need to airlift survivors out would be much smaller.
  - Ⓓ The city would be much better prepared for the disaster and wouldn't be as badly damaged.

### Finding Word Meaning in Context

7. What is the meaning of the word *survey* in paragraph three?
- (A) 'poll'
  - (B) 'inspect'
  - (C) 'change'
  - (D) 'deny'

### Identifying Author's Purpose

10. The author's purpose in the last paragraph is to
- (A) entertain readers with a story about rebuilding a city.
  - (B) explain the destructive power of a cyclone.
  - (C) describe how Darwin was rebuilt and what it is like after the cyclone.
  - (D) share information about the city of Darwin before the cyclone.

### Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

8. You can conclude that
- (A) Darwin is probably a much nicer place to live thanks to Cyclone Tracy.
  - (B) Darwin today is just as likely to be destroyed by a cyclone.
  - (C) Darwin today is better prepared for a natural disaster like Cyclone Tracy.
  - (D) the cyclone was worse because it happened at Christmas.

### Interpreting Figurative Language

11. In the last paragraph, *rise from the ashes* describes how the
- (A) cyclone caused the outbreak of fire.
  - (B) people of Darwin were able to rebuild their city and make it great again.
  - (C) city of Darwin was destroyed by a cyclone.
  - (D) people of Darwin left their city.

### Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

9. Which of these is an *opinion* from the article?
- (A) The bill from Cyclone Tracy amounted to four billion dollars.
  - (B) Darwin hadn't suffered a bad cyclone since 1937.
  - (C) It took many years to rebuild Darwin.
  - (D) The city that rose from the destruction of Cyclone Tracy grew to be a wonderful capital again.

### Summarising

12. Which of these is the best summary of the article?
- (A) Cyclone Tracy destroyed Darwin, but the result was a city that was stronger and different than it had been before.
  - (B) People often don't realise how strong they are until disaster strikes.
  - (C) Cyclones are a more destructive force than earthquakes.
  - (D) Cyclone Tracy in 1974 was the worst disaster in Australia's history.