2020’s Disasters Are Wild. Experts Say They Will Get Worse.

**COMMON CORE / CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS ANCHOR STANDARD — Reading 2:** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

**READING LEVEL 4–6 | NATIONAL | PG. 1**

**Content Learning Objective**
Learners will describe extreme weather from the story.

**Before Reading**
Ask learners to think of some examples of extreme weather in the past year.

**Check Comprehension**
Encourage learners to answer in complete sentences.

1. Where is Death Valley? What is the weather like there? What was the heat record in August? (It is in California. It is always very hot. It was 130 degrees.)
2. What were the extreme changes in temperature in Colorado earlier this month? (Colorado went from 93 degrees to 32 degrees in just 24 hours.)
3. What do many experts say is the cause of the natural disasters in 2020? What do they say will happen in the future? (They say it is climate change. They think there will be more disasters.)
4. What type of bad weather will happen more in the future, according to Waleed Abdalati? (There will be stronger winds, more drought, and more heavy floods.)
5. What is an example of a disaster that can’t be connected directly to man-made warming? What happens in that type of storm? (It is a derecho. That type of storm brings hurricane-force winds.)

**Discussion Questions**
1. Have you had bad weather in your area in the past year or two? Give examples.
2. What do you think people should do to prepare for more bad weather?
3. Does bad weather make you think about moving somewhere else in the future? Why or why not?

**Classifying Extreme Weather**
Provide learners with the following list of place names. Let them know that each place is mentioned in the story. They should write the type of bad weather that happened in each place. Answers appear below in parentheses. Then they should answer the questions that appear toward the end. If possible, have learners complete the discussion questions with a partner. If that’s not possible, it can be a whole-class discussion.

1. Oregon
2. Atlantic Ocean
3. Colorado
4. Washington
5. California
6. Iowa
7. Death Valley

(Answers: 1. large fires 2. more big storms 3. big changes in temperature 4. large fires, a heat record 5. large fires, drought 6. a derecho 7. a heat record)

**Questions to discuss:**
1. Which extreme weather do you think is the hardest to live near? Why do you think that?
2. Which bad weather have you already lived with?
3. What do you do to prepare for natural disasters?

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**ANSWER KEY**

**Suga Becomes Japan’s New Leader (3–4)**
1. b, 2. d, 3. a, 4. c, e

**China Tries to Make “Hot Pot” Safer, but Diners Are Cool to the Idea (3–4)**

Answers will vary.

**Deadly Cow Attacks Become More Common in the Alps (4–6)**

**Grand Canyon Rock Fall Reveals Ancient Animal Footsteps (4–6)**

Bright Angel Trail is a popular hiking path in the Grand Canyon in Arizona. A rock on the trail was covered with ancient animal footprints. The rock weighs hundreds of pounds. We think the tracks are about 313 million years old. We think the tracks were made by a lizard.

**KFC Stops Using Its Slogan Due to Virus Outbreak (3–4)**
1. fans 2. slogan 3. germs 4. right 5. chain

**Artist Folds Paper Cranes to Honor Each COVID-19 Death in U.S. (4–6)**

Answers will vary. Accept reasonable, grammatically correct answers.
Suga Becomes Japan’s New Leader  Pg. 1

Match each person on the left with the correct description on the right. One person will be matched with two answers. Then talk about the discussion questions.

1. Nobuo Kishi
   - the new prime minister of Japan
   - a. the new prime minister of Japan

2. Shinzo Abe
   - the defense minister
   - b. the defense minister

3. Yoshihide Suga
   - the foreign minister
   - c. the foreign minister

4. Toshimitsu Motegi
   - the former prime minister of Japan
   - d. the former prime minister of Japan
   - helped to work out the Trans-Pacific Partnership
   - e. helped to work out the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Discussion Questions: Do you know anyone from Japan? Do you live in a country that will change leaders this year? What are some qualities that make a good leader?

China Tries to Make “Hot Pot” Safer, but Diners Are Cool to the Idea  P. 2

Hot or Cool Idea? For each sentence below, write the word Hot if you think it’s a good idea right now and Cool if you don’t like the idea. If you can, talk about your answers with a partner. Then talk about the discussion questions.

__________ 1. riding on public transportation, like a subway
__________ 2. sharing food with other people
__________ 3. being on an airplane
__________ 4. going to an outdoor sports game with many people
__________ 5. going to an indoor sports game with many people

Discussion Questions: Have you had Chinese hot pot? What is your favorite Chinese food? Do you think you are very scared of germs? Why or why not?
Deadly Cow Attacks Become More Common in the Alps  Pp. 2–3

The story names nine places with proper nouns. Put those place names in alphabetical order below. Then talk about the discussion questions.

________________________  _________________________  _________________________
________________________  _________________________  _________________________
________________________  _________________________  _________________________

Discussion Questions: Have you been to any of the countries named in the story? Would you want to visit the Alps? Why or why not? Do you like big mountains? Are you afraid of cows?

Grand Canyon Rock Fall Reveals Ancient Animal Footsteps  Pp. 2–3

Imagine that Steve Rowland wrote the sentences about the newly found fossils below. He made five information mistakes in his writing. Make the corrections below. Use the story to help you find the correct answers. Then talk about the discussion questions.

Bright Angel Trail is a popular hiking path in the Grand Canyon in Utah. A rock on the trail was covered with ancient human footprints. The rock weighs 80 pounds.

We think the tracks are about 313,000 years old. We think the tracks were made by an alligator.

Discussion Questions: Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? Have you ever touched a fossil? Do you like to find hidden treasure? When was the last time you visited a big park? What park was it?
KFC Stops Using Its Slogan Due to Virus Outbreak  Pg. 3

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the word box. Then talk about the discussion questions.

chain slogan germs fans right

1. Some KFC __________ might miss the slogan.

2. The __________ is “It’s Finger Lickin’ Good.”

3. The new coronavirus has people more aware of __________ than ever.

4. “Just when the time is __________,” KFC said in a statement.

5. The __________ uses a well-known slogan, or saying, to sell its food.

Discussion Questions: Have you ever eaten at KFC? If you like KFC, what is your favorite thing to eat there? Do you like to eat at fast-food restaurants? Do you like fried chicken?

Artist Folds Paper Cranes to Honor Each COVID-19 Death in U.S.  Pg. 4

Your Opinion! There are many ways to honor a person who has died. What do you think is a good way to honor someone who has died? Write one or more ideas below. For each idea, explain what it is and why it is a good way to honor someone who has died. If you can, share your writing with a partner. Then talk about the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions: Have you ever done origami? Do you know anyone who does origami? Do you think the paper cranes are a good way to honor each person who has died from COVID-19? Why or why not?