

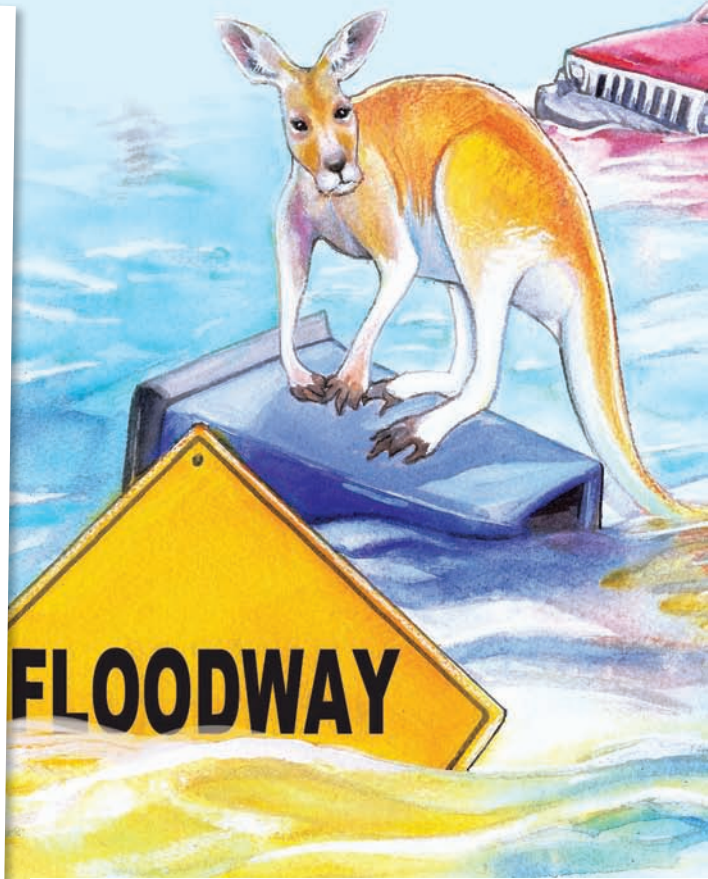
Natural Disasters

Objectives

- To edit your work
- To write about a natural disaster

A Read the paragraph. **Circle** the sentence that tells what the paragraph is mostly about. **Underline** the sentence that concludes the paragraph.

Natural disasters happen often. All over the world, there are earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and volcanic eruptions. One recent natural disaster occurred in Queensland, Australia. Heavy rains in Queensland caused a major flood. Many towns were covered in water. Many businesses were closed. Homes were filled with water. Thousands of people had to move to high ground. Some were able to take things with them when they moved. Others were not as lucky. Queensland often has problems with floods. However, this was one of the worst floods in years. Natural disasters change lives. They sometimes take away businesses, homes, and even lives.



Choose the best answers.

1. Which other sentence could begin the paragraph?
 - a. Natural disasters occur frequently.
 - b. Natural disasters cause many problems in Australia.
2. Which other sentence could end the paragraph?
 - a. Recently, there was a natural disaster in Australia.
 - b. Sometimes, natural disasters take away things that are very important to people.

B

Read the language skill information in the box.



Language Skill Focus

Editing is an important step in the writing process. Here are some things to think about when editing:

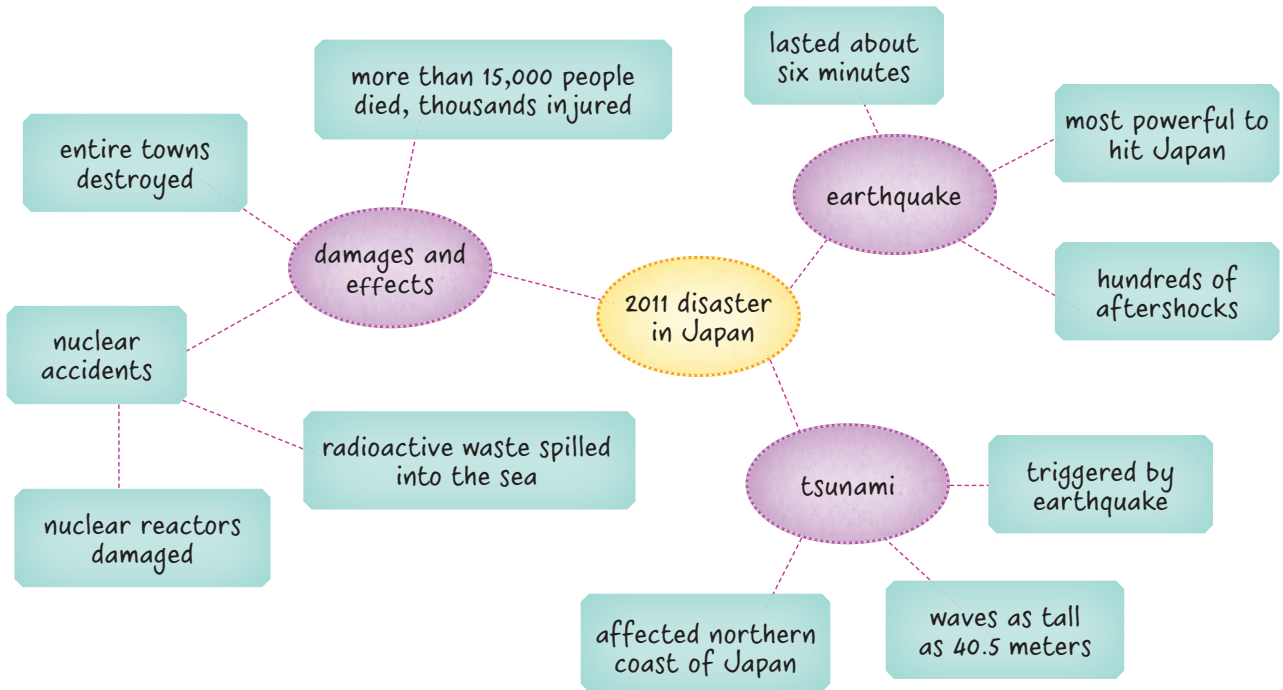
- Is there a title?
- Are the topic sentence and concluding sentence clear?
- Are there any sentences that should be taken out?
- How does the paragraph read? Are there any sentences that should be rewritten?
- Are all the words spelled correctly?
- Is there subject-verb agreement?
- Is the verb tense consistent throughout the paragraph?
- Is the punctuation and capitalization correct? Are there any missing commas?

Find the mistakes in the paragraph. Cross out the mistakes and rewrite the paragraph.

Every spring I like to plant flowers I even Have my own garden that is full of flowers. My favorite flowers are white lilies. I like to watch them grow. When they are fully grown I pick the flowers and give them to my Friends. Sometimes, my Mom helps me water my flowers Then, we sit in the garden and admire them. My mom has brown hair. When the weather, starts to get cold I say good-bye to my flowers and waiting for spring to come again.



Use the cluster to complete the paragraph below.



Disaster in Japan

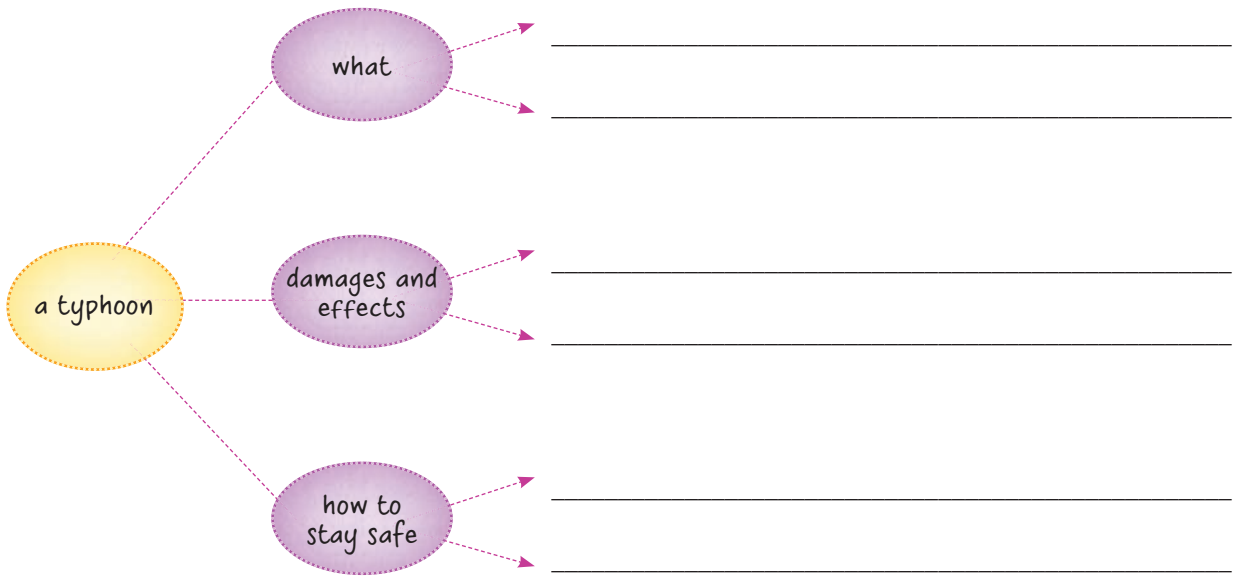


In March 2011, a terrible earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. The earthquake was the most powerful one to ever hit Japan. _____
_____. Hundreds of aftershocks continued for days and months after the earthquake. The earthquake triggered the tsunami. _____
_____. The tsunami affected the northern coast of Japan. Most of the damage from the disaster was the result of the tsunami. _____

Entire towns were destroyed. Nuclear reactors suffered damage. _____
_____. It will take many years for the Japanese people to recover from this terrible disaster.



Fill in the cluster using some of the words and phrases in the box below.



Word Box

outside	trains	don't go	break	windows
people can be hurt	flooding	stay inside	falling objects	
cause trees to fall	sometimes people are killed	bring pets inside		
big dangerous storm	common in East Asia	difficult to travel		
strong winds and heavy rains	usually happen in summer and fall			
destroy homes and other buildings	transportation cannot run			



Write a paragraph using the cluster above.

A large blue-lined writing area with a dashed rectangular box at the top for a title.



Brainstorm with a classmate. Write all of your ideas on the lines below.

What natural disaster have you heard about recently?

Tip

Think of as many details as you can based on the four questions.

Our Ideas

1. Think of some natural disasters that have happened recently. What kinds were they?

2. Where did it happen?

3. Why did it happen?

4. What problems did this disaster cause? Are there still problems?



Put your ideas in a cluster. Draw more boxes as you need them.



Word Box

damage	homeless	destroyed	hurricane	flood
earthquake	strong winds	hurt	harmed	killed
buildings	collapse	upset	poor	typhoon
lose pets	unemployment	movement of the ground		



F Make an outline. Organize the ideas from your cluster on the previous page and add more details.

Topic Sentence: _____

A.

1. _____

2. _____

B.

1. _____

2. _____

C.

1. _____

2. _____

D.

1. _____

2. _____

Concluding Sentence: _____



Now write a paragraph.



Edit your work. Did you use the checklist on page 7?
Share your paragraph with your classmates.