Disaster!

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 76)
For these activities, encourage students to exchange ideas, and to speculate and to guess. Do not tell them the answers that are factual; they will find out the answers as they read.

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses.

earthquake A sudden violent shaking of the earth’s surface
eruption When burning rocks, hot liquid and smoke come out of a volcano
explosion When something bursts suddenly with a very loud noise
flood When a lot of water covers something that is usually dry
oil spill When oil accidentally goes out of a ship or large container
plague A disease that causes death and spreads quickly
tsunami A very large wave that goes over the land and destroys things

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
Open answers.

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING
Open answers.

CHAPTER 1.1 WHILE READING
1 Vesuvius is near the city of Naples.
2 The eruptions happened in August AD 79.
3 Pompeii was a rich town of 20,000 people.
4 Herculaneum was quickly covered by hot ash and rock.
5 Pliny the Younger wrote a diary about the disaster.
6 Pompeii and Herculaneum tell us a lot about Roman life 2,000 years ago.

CHAPTER 1.2 WHILE READING
1 b; 2 c; 3 a; 4 c; 5 a; 6 c; 7 b.

CHAPTER 1.3 AND 1.4 WHILE READING
The Asian tsunami was caused by an earthquake 30 kilometres under the Indian Ocean on the morning of 26 December 2004. There was a delay of several hours before high waves began to hit the coasts of Indonesia, Thailand, and many other countries. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives. Hurricane Katrina started over the sea in the Gulf of Mexico on 23 August 2005. It hit the coast of the USA a few days later and damaged three of the levees which protect the city of New Orleans. 80 per cent of the city became flooded and nearly 500,000 people lost their homes.

CHAPTER 2.1 WHILE READING
1 It started in a bread shop near the River Thames on Monday 2 September 1666.
2 Because the houses were made of wood and built close together. There was also a strong wind.
3 Samuel Pepys.
4 He worked with his men and pulled down some houses so the fire could not spread.
5 There were no more rats. The new houses were also safer, cleaner and healthier.

CHAPTER 2.2 WHILE READING
1 The Titanic sailed from Southampton in 1912.
2 The ship received seven radio messages about the ice.
3 On 14 April the look-out boy saw a big iceberg.
4 The iceberg made a hole that was ninety metres long.
5 There were enough lifeboats for half the passengers.
6 Many children never saw their fathers again.
7 Three famous millionaires died in the disaster.

CHAPTER 2.3 WHILE READING
1+e In 1984, workers at the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal began to repair boxes that contained methyl isocyanate gas.
2+b On 2 December the deadly gas escaped and it started to move silently through the sleeping city.
3+a In the early hours of the morning, hundreds of people died in their sleep.
4+g By seven o’clock the next morning 20,000 people had arrived at the hospital in Bhopal.
5+f When the Union Carbide chief flew to Bhopal, he was immediately arrested but he was then allowed to go free.
6+c In 1989, the Union Carbide company agreed to pay the Indian government 470 million dollars.
7+d Sunil Kumar Verma travelled around the world to tell the true story of the tragedy.
CHAPTER 2.4 AND 2.5 WHILE READING
1 How many . . . ? Seven on each space shuttle.
2 What . . . ? She was going to give two lessons by television.
3 How many . . . ? Nine.
4 What . . . ? It was unusually cold.
5 How much . . . ? 20 million dollars.
6 What . . . ? They did scientific experiments.
7 Why . . . ? The wing had been damaged on take-off, and when Columbia approached the Earth again, hot gases came inside and it exploded.
8 Who . . . ? Third Officer Gregory Cousins.
9 How much . . . ? 50 million litres.
10 Why . . . ? Because the special boat that was needed for emergencies had been damaged by a storm.
11 What . . . ? ‘The day the water died’.

CHAPTER 2.6 WHILE READING
Correct order: 5, 1, 2, 4, 6
5 Scientists did an experiment at Chernobyl power station.
1 The temperature of reactor number 4 began to rise quickly.
8 There were sudden explosions and a big fire.
3 A team of firemen came to fight the fire with water.
7 The world heard about the terrible accident from Sweden.
2 Gorbachev told the people of the USSR about the disaster.
4 A huge, thick wall was built around reactor 4.
6 Many children whose parents helped to clean up after the disaster died young.

CHAPTER 3.1 WHILE READING
1 T
2 F The plague killed one fifth of the population of London.
3 F George Vicars received a parcel of cotton material from London.
4 T
5 F People left food near the well high above the village.
6 T
7 F The plague didn’t spread to other villages.

CHAPTER 3.2 WHILE READING
HIV / Aids is a disease of the blood which can be spread by sexual contact. At first when people get HIV they often seem normal and healthy, but over time they can go on to develop the deadly disease of Aids. HIV/ Aids is a very serious problem in Africa south of the Sahara. Sufferers are often too sick to work and find it difficult to get food for their families.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

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The words across are: experiment, rats, sink, reactor, crew, radiation.

The words down are: tent, cancer, flight, sneeze, tanker, erupt, nuclear, chemical, astronaut, iceberg, mud.
1 The sentence is: ‘The water is dead, but we are alive.’ It was said by Chief Walter Meganack, the head of a village near Prince William Sound in Alaska.
2 Oil from the Exxon Valdez had found its way onto nearly 1,700 kilometres of the Alaskan coast. It had killed millions of fish, sea birds, and sea animals which many of the Alaskan people depended on. Chief Meganack said this to give his people hope for the future.

The words are associated with the following disaster stories:
cancer – Chernobyl
chemical – Bhopal, Chernobyl
crew – Chernobyl, the Titanic, Challenger
erupt – Vesuvius
experiment – Chernobyl, Challenger
flight – Challenger, Columbia
iceberg – the Titanic
mud – Vesuvius, Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina
nuclear – Chernobyl
radiation – Chernobyl
rats – the Great Fire of London, the Plague
reactor – Chernobyl
sink – the Titanic
sneeze – the Plague
tanker – Exxon Valdez
tent – Tangshan earthquake, in Qinglong many people were saved because they slept in tents
ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Edith Brown story in correct order: 2, 6, 12, 16, 10, 8, 3, 14

On 10 April 1912, Edith Brown and her parents, Thomas and Elizabeth, left England on the Titanic because they wanted to start a new life in the United States. When the Titanic suddenly hit an iceberg on the night of 14 April, Thomas immediately ran to his family and told them to put on warm clothes. Edith and Elizabeth found seats in the lifeboat but sadly there weren't enough places for everybody. Poor Thomas died in the water along with many other people so Edith never saw her father again.

Tilly Smith story in correct order: 7, 13, 1, 15, 4, 11, 5, 9

In December 2004, ten-year-old Tilly Smith and her family went on holiday to Thailand where they stayed in a hotel on the coast. Tilly was on the beach one day when she saw the sea was moving back very quickly from the land. She had learned all about the signs of a tsunami at school so she immediately warned her family and other tourists about the danger. Tilly returned to Thailand a year later and she spoke there to thousands of people about kindness and bravery.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Headlines refer to:
Chernobyl disaster
Bhopal chemical disaster
Tangshan earthquake
Sinking of the Titanic
Challenger disaster
New Orleans floods
HIV/AIDS

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage students to share their views and opinions.