

Haiti – International Rescue

Help from around the world is now arriving in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that hit the country recently. The tiny Caribbean country that is one of the poorest in the world was hit by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12. More than three million people have been affected. President Obama has been joined by former Presidents George W Bush and Bill Clinton in organising help. Together they are spearheading a fund raising drive to help survivors of the Haiti earthquake and are urging people to send cash to help the relief effort. Meanwhile, authorities in Haiti now say as many as 200,000 people may have died following Tuesday's earthquake. It has prompted a worldwide humanitarian response from different governments as rescuers race to save people still in the rubble.

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Trucks piled with corpses have been carrying bodies to hurriedly excavated mass graves outside the capital Port-au-Prince but thousands of bodies are still believed to be trapped under the rubble. The disaster has brought out the best and worst in human nature. With large parts of the capital destroyed anarchy soon started and there was total chaos. Crime soured. The country, which was pretty lawless before the earthquake, has seen mass looting by gangs of men. Many criminals are free since the city's prison collapsed. A mob of around a thousand people on Saturday was fighting for goods in destroyed shops in the centre of Port-au-Prince. People were fighting, hitting each other and throwing stones at each other in the fight to live.

Meanwhile many tales of destruction are being given by eyewitnesses. Of tiles beginning to shake, the ground wobbling, of buildings cracking and falling and of people trying to get out before they were buried alive. Other

Category: Caribbean / Haiti / Earthquake
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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tales include of survivors being plucked to safety, of bodies being extracted from collapsed buildings and of there being despair all around. The quake lasted a minute but for many felt far longer. The epicentre of the quake was 15km from the capital. The port in Haiti was also destroyed; the jetty collapsed. It will take time to rebuild so ships can dock with essential supplies. It will be essential for troops to rebuild the port as soon as possible. The relief effort has been hampered by the damage to the infrastructure, as the roads split apart and buckled.

A hospital ship, and more than 10,000 US troops have been deployed to help. Aid groups around the world have rescue efforts underway. Governments and airlines worldwide are mucking in to help the survivors in Haiti. Airlines have transported medics and essential supplies to aid the survivors who need temporary shelter, fresh clean water, food and medical care. Heavy lifting equipment is desperately needed. The UN estimated that 2m people need immediate food and water aid. It launched its own appeal to raise more than US\$562m. Meanwhile tent cities have sprung up in football stadiums and other places that are away from buildings that were likely to collapse.

On Saturday a magnitude-4.5 aftershock hit the city causing more damage. So far 50,000 bodies have been collected. The red cross has set up a website for relatives abroad who want to contact relatives in Haiti. However, with no electricity sending e-mails there is for now difficult. The United Nations has said the disaster in Haiti is larger than the Tsunami that hit the Pacific in 2005, and that was a huge disaster. Two of its top officials were killed in the quake. The city has thousands of orphans who will need adopting. Foreign governments have been urged to adopt an orphan on humanitarian grounds. Chaos and lack of food resulted in many aid workers in the orphanage initially trying to leave due to hostile crowds. Outside the capital, thousands of homes were also destroyed and it maybe days before they receive any help.

EXERCISES

1. **The earthquake in Haiti:** What three things you know about the earthquake in Haiti. Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Haiti:** Where is Haiti? What country is connected to Haiti? What other countries are close to Haiti? Draw a map on the board then look on Google maps.

3. **Earthquakes and volcanoes:** What is an earthquake? What is a volcano? Go round the room swapping details.

4. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page two - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

5. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

6. **Vocabulary:** Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

7. **The article:** Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to help the people of Haiti? How?

8. **Let's think!** Think of five different charities or organisations that were helping in the international rescue effort in Haiti. Then add five things you might have done to help. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

Five charities/organisations	Five things you would have done to help
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

9. **Earthquakes & Volcanoes:** In pairs: Think of three major earthquakes and three volcanoes you know. Where did they happen? Which was the biggest?

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10. Let's talk! Radio Haiti International: *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Imagine you are in the Radio Haiti International studio. One of you is the DJ. The other student is an aid worker from the *United Nations / Red Cross*. The DJ interviews the *UN / Red Cross* person who describes what they have seen following the earthquake.

11. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) How big was the earthquake?
- 2) What date and day did the earthquake strike Haiti?
- 3) Who flew into Haiti on Saturday?
- 4) Which American Presidents are helping the rescue effort?
- 5) Name the Haiti President.

Student B

- 1) How many US troops have been deployed?
- 2) How many bodies have been collected?
- 3) Name the other disaster from 2005.
- 4) Sum up the situation in Haiti.
- 5) What happened to the port?

12. Let's chat! In pairs: One of you rings your fellow student who is in Haiti. You are speaking on your mobile *or* on your computer using Skype! Chat about the disaster. How can you help? What is the latest situation? There is a poor line.

13. Let's think! Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **Haiti** as you can. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

14. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Haiti _____
- b) The country _____
- c) Aid agencies _____

15. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation about the **international rescue in Haiti**. Try to include what happened and how the rescue effort was organised. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation.

16. Quickfire! In a group in a circle. The teacher asks the class, **Earthquakes...**"

17. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher: **Haiti – International Rescue**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

DISCUSSION

Student A's questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What advice would you give the Haitian President?
- 3) Have you ever encountered an earthquake? If yes, how was it?
- 4) When did you hear about the earthquake in Haiti?
- 5) Have you ever been to Haiti?
- 6) What would you do if you were in an earthquake?
- 7) What should the international rescue effort do next?
- 8) What should the United Nations do next in Haiti?
- 9) What is the latest news about Haiti?
- 10) Why do we bury corpses?

Student B's questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) How can you help the people of Haiti?
- 3) What do you think of the situation in Haiti?
- 4) Did any of your friends help the relief effort?
- 5) Did you donate any money to the people of Haiti?
- 6) What other ways could you raise money for the people of Haiti?
- 7) What three things should governments of the world do to help the people of Haiti?
- 8) What advice would you give the people of Haiti?
- 9) What did your country do to help the international rescue aid effort?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's brainstorm! Haiti - United Nations International Rescue

Allow 10-15 minutes: Small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

You work for the **United Nations**. You have been drafted into a United Nations aid group who are about to fly out to Haiti as a team to help the people of Haiti. Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative!

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Action plan - Who is assigned what job for the task ahead.2) How each person will prepare their role3) What difficulties you may encounter? Other things to consider etc...4) Jobs to do on arrival. Helping those who desperately need it etc...5) Work to do in the first 24 hours, help you can give etc...6) Work to do in the weeks / month ahead7) Long term planning for the group or for your replacements |
|---|

The teacher may select some groups to present their findings to the rest of the class.

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Haiti – International Rescue

_____ from around the world is now arriving in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that hit the country recently. The tiny Caribbean country that is one of the poorest in the world was hit by the 7.0 magnitude _____ on January 12. More than three million people have been affected. President Obama has been joined by _____ Presidents George W Bush and Bill Clinton in organising help. Together they are spearheading a fund raising drive to help _____ of the Haiti earthquake and are urging people to send cash to help the relief effort. Meanwhile, authorities in Haiti now say as many as 200,000 people may have died following Tuesday's earthquake. It has prompted a _____ humanitarian response from different governments as rescuers race to _____ people still in the _____.

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton flew into Haiti on Saturday carrying relief supplies and to help relief efforts. Haiti's government gave control of its main _____ over to the U.S. to bring in flights from around the world. She met with Haitian President, Rene Preval and Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, their officials and US civilians and military personnel involved. The Presidential Palace was destroyed in the earthquake so the Haitian President has been living and working in the judicial police _____.

Trucks piled with corpses have been carrying bodies to hurriedly excavated mass _____ outside the capital Port-au-Prince but thousands of bodies are still believed to be trapped under the rubble. The _____ has brought out the best and worst in human nature. With large parts of the capital destroyed _____ soon started and there was total chaos. _____ soured. The country, which was pretty lawless before the earthquake, has seen mass _____ by gangs of men. Many criminals are free since the city's prison collapsed. A mob of around a thousand people on Saturday was fighting for goods in destroyed shops in the centre of Port-au-Prince. People were fighting, hitting each other and throwing _____ at each other in the fight to live.

save

former

rubble

help

survivors

worldwide

earthquake

graves

looting

headquarters

anarchy

airport

stones

disaster

crime

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Haiti – International Rescue

Help from around the world is (1)___ arriving in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that hit (2)___ country recently. The tiny Caribbean country that is one (3)___ the poorest in the world was hit by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake (4)___ January 12. More than three million people have been affected. President Obama has been joined by former Presidents George W Bush and Bill Clinton in organising help. Together they are spearheading (5)___ fund raising drive to help survivors of the Haiti earthquake (6)___ are urging people to send cash to help the relief effort. Meanwhile, authorities in Haiti now say as many as 200,000 people may have died following Tuesday's earthquake. It has prompted a worldwide humanitarian response from different governments (7)___ rescuers race to save people still in the rubble.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	rubble	11	collapsed
2	essential	12	magnitude
3	orphans	13	civilians
4	chaos	14	earthquake
5	lawless	15	judicial
6	wobbling	16	humanitarian
7	disaster	17	survivors
8	headquarters	18	eyewitnesses
9	spearheading	19	equipment
10	immediate	20	Tsunami

LINKS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake
<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/07/14/haiti.donations/index.html#fbid=3nRpfMn2KHm&wom=false>
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/americas/2010/haiti_earthquake/default.stm
http://www.google.sk/images?client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&channel=s&hl=sk&q=haiti+earthquake&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=YY-CTODaDYjBswbYo9TsCA&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=5&ved=0CEQOsAQwBA&biw=1721&bih=743

ANSWERS

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