

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Playing Volleyball

Volleyball is a team sport that encourages sharing the ball for success. Each side has six players on the court at one time. There cannot be more than three hits, or ball touches, per side. Players can pass by putting their arms together and bumping the ball off the insides of their forearms. This is called a “bump.” They can also “set” or “spike” the ball. A “set” is made with a light flick with the fingertips, at the level of the forehead. The player cannot hold the ball in this set position, only fling it in the air for another player to “spike” it. A “spike” is a hard, overhand hit that flies quickly onto the court on the other side of the net. Teams strive to have three players touch the ball before sending it over the net with the hope to score. The first player bumps the ball to the setter, who is near the net. The setter then sets the ball to the hitter, who spikes the ball over the net.

Individual plays are an essential element of volleyball. A player can develop a strong overhand serve. Serving starts the game in motion. To serve, a player stands at the back of the court on his or her side. The player serves the ball over the net to the opposing team. If the ball crosses the back court line, the serve does not count. The ball then goes to the other team. A player with a strong serve can show individual skill while scoring points for the team, especially if the other team is unable to receive the serve and put the ball in motion.

Another individual skill that helps the team is blocking. With blocking, a player stands at the net without touching it. If a player on the opposite team spikes the ball, the blocker can reach up over the net and block it from crossing the net. If successful, a block can cause a “side out,” where the ball goes to the blocker’s side.

Working together develops team work as well as a volleyball player’s individual skills.

Student Name _____

- 1 Which sentence **best** states the main idea of the first paragraph?
- A Volleyball is a challenging sport that requires years of practice.
 - B Volleyball is a team sport in which players work together.
 - C Volleyball includes a team of six players on the court at one time.
 - D Volleyball includes many types of hits that are difficult to perform.
- 2 Which sentence **best** expresses the main idea of the text?
- A "Each side has six players on the court at one time."
 - B "Players can pass by putting their arms together and bumping the ball off the insides of their forearms."
 - C "Individual plays are an essential element of volleyball."
 - D "Working together develops team work as well as a volleyball player's individual skills."

GO ON →

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Sandbagging

Sandbagging, which was first used during the Revolutionary War, still proves to be an effective way to stop flooding. It was put to good use when the Mississippi River flooded in the year 2008. The United States Army used 13 million sandbags to construct the barriers needed to stop flooding in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. The job was too big for the army to handle on their own, so volunteers contributed to the effort of making and stacking sandbags. Together, the army and volunteers worked to keep the flooding under control.

The key to successful sandbagging starts with filling the bags with sand only about halfway and folding the top over. This makes them easy to lift and stack. One person holds the bag while another person shovels the sand into it. A third person can help pass and stack the bags carefully, often in pyramid shapes. If the bags are too full, they will not fit together well. This could lead to a barrier that leaks.

The sandbags benefit a flooded area by stopping or slowing the water; however, there are some downsides to using them. For example, plastic bags are usually used, but they are very harmful to the environment. They take a long time to break down in the earth. Even with downsides, sandbagging has been around for a long time for a good reason! It keeps floods from spreading and damaging homes or farms.

Student Name _____

3 Read the sentence from the text.

The United States Army used 13 million sandbags to construct the barriers needed to stop flooding in the St. Louis, Missouri, area.

The Latin root *struct* means “to build.” What does the word construct mean in this sentence?

- A break
- B imagine
- C create
- D plan

4 Read the sentence from the text.

The sandbags benefit a flooded area by stopping or slowing the water; however, there are some downsides to using them.

The Latin root *bene* means “good.” What does the word benefit mean in this sentence?

- A help
- B like
- C complete
- D block

GO ON →

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Be Prepared!

Natural disasters happen all over the world. They include floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires. Every family needs a plan in case an unexpected disaster strikes a home or community. Disaster plans will vary, and each family should consider the type of emergency most likely to occur.

Flooding is a common emergency. Some floods, called flash floods, develop quickly following heavy rainfall, and they usually affect only a limited area. Other floods develop slowly and affect large areas. Although some floods occur in places never affected before, many places flood often. If you live in such an area, your family should be prepared at all times. Have an emergency kit, food and water, and a plan for evacuation, or leaving the affected area.

Hurricanes usually occur in coastal states. They are predicted several days to as much as a week ahead of time. When a hurricane strikes, high winds can cause serious damage, and flooding is possible. Flooding results from a surge of water from the ocean or gulf. Authorities can mandate that you go to a different location, so it is good to have an evacuation route planned. You might want to arrange to stay with friends or relatives. Many communities open centers that are safer than homes in a hurricane. If your center does not accept pets, you will need an alternate plan for the pet. Ahead of time, make sure your pet has had immunizations. An ID tag will help if you and your pet get separated, and a carrier or cage will protect your pet.

Tornadoes are violent storms that can do serious damage—and that can develop with little warning. Just before one touches down, you would notice one or more of the following:

- a dark sky
- large-size hail
- air that is ominously still
- a low cloud that might be rotating, or turning, in a circle
- a loud roar

If you are in a building during a hurricane or tornado, go to a basement or an inside room. Experts say that you should stay away from windows and outside walls. If you are outside, lie flat in the lowest place. Cover your head with your hands.

There are steps everyone should take no matter what the risks are in your particular area. First, it is important that your family meets to make a plan *before* a disaster occurs so that you all know how to act in an emergency situation. You will need to decide on a place for everyone to meet following a disaster, and you will need to know where the emergency supplies are kept. In an emergency like a fire, plan to meet at a location right outside. Remember that family members might be in school and at work when a disaster strikes. So, plan to go to a place where you can meet if you cannot return home. It is good to have a charged cell phone handy.

Below is a checklist you can use to be prepared for an emergency.

Gather Emergency Supplies

- For each person, 1 gallon of water a day for 3–7 days
- Packaged and canned meats and fish, fruits, and vegetables
- Manual can opener
- Special foods for family members, such as baby food
- Pet food if you have a pet
- First-aid kit with bandages, gauze pads, antiseptic, and scissors
- Portable radio
- Flashlight/batteries

Other Items

- Paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Paper towels and other paper products
- Trash bags
- Sturdy shoes and warm clothing
- Blankets/sleeping bags

Knowing what to expect and being prepared for the worst will help you and your family survive in an emergency.

GO ON →

5 Read the sentence from the text.

Disaster plans will vary, and each family should consider the type of emergency most likely to occur.

The Latin root *vari* means “change.” What does the word vary mean in this sentence?

- A be different
- B be needed
- C show
- D explain

6 Which sentence from the first paragraph **best** states the main idea of the text?

- A “Natural disasters happen all over the world.”
- B “They include floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires.”
- C “Every family needs a plan in case an unexpected disaster strikes a home or community.”
- D “Disaster plans will vary, and each family should consider the type of emergency most likely to occur.”

7 Read the sentence from the text.

They are predicted several days to as much as a week ahead of time.

The Latin root *dict* means “to say.” What does the word predicted mean in this sentence?

- A organized
- B argued about
- C damaged
- D declared in advance

GO ON →

- 8 Which sentence **best** states the author’s main idea about hurricanes?
- A People are forced to leave their homes during a hurricane.
 - B Hurricanes are usually predicted ahead of time, so have a safety plan.
 - C Pet owners should have carriers for their pets during hurricanes.
 - D Hurricanes cause floods because of huge waves from the ocean or gulf.
- 9 The Latin root *port* means “carry.” What does this information help the reader understand about the portable radio listed in the “Gather Emergency Supplies” section of the text?
- A It has a handle.
 - B It is easily carried or moved.
 - C It can be stored.
 - D It needs two people to carry.
- 10 In this paragraph from the text, the author makes the point that families need to meet before a disaster occurs. Underline the sentence in the paragraph that **best** supports this idea.

There are steps everyone should take no matter what the risks are in your particular area. First, it is important that your family meets to make a plan *before* a disaster occurs so that you all know how to act in an emergency situation. You will need to decide on a place for everyone to meet following a disaster, and you will need to know where the emergency supplies are kept. In an emergency like a fire, plan to meet at a location right outside. Remember that family members might be in school and at work when a disaster strikes. So, plan to go to a place where you can meet if you cannot return home. It is good to have a charged cell phone handy.

