

Hurricanes

Hurricane George, which has been **sweeping** across the Atlantic for the last few days, struck the coastal areas of Jahar shortly before dawn, with winds of up to 170 miles an hour. The **battering gales** are said to be moving inland, causing widespread damage and devastation. As the hurricane-force winds cut a **swath** across the country, they are leaving behind a trail of destruction, downed power lines and telephone poles, torn off roofs and uprooted trees. The fishing fleet was totally destroyed as the winds **ripped** boats from their **moorings** and tossed them on shore.

Huge seas heavily **inundated** populated areas of the coastal plains, wiping out several settlements. Coastal town residents have **sought refuge** in stone-built churches, and on higher ground. So far the violent hurricane has left one hundred dead in its wake. The death toll is still climbing as more and more bodies are recovered from under collapsed buildings. Five hundred people are reported missing, and are **presumed** dead, having been swept away by flood waters. The casualty list and the damage statistics are still incomplete and will probably **soar** as communication links with affected areas are restored.

As hardly a house in the area still has a roof, the President has declared the state of emergency. Residents are in desperate need of food and shelter. The authorities ordered the evacuation of people from the capital, although it is hoped that by the time the hurricane reaches that city, it will have **downgraded** to a tropical storm. If so, the city will survive relatively **unscathed**. However, what has not already been **flattened** by the winds is still likely to be severely damaged by mudslides and floods caused by the accompanying **torrential** rain. Judging by the devastation, Hurricane George is likely to be the deadliest storm on record.

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- zostac odnotowanym - *be o*..... *r*.....
- sadzic po zniszczeniach - *j*..... *b*..... *the d*.....
- wydac rozkaz ewakuacji - *o*..... *e*.....
- oglosic stan klęski żywiołowej - *d*..... *a s*..... *of e*.....
- przywrócic łączność - *r*..... *c*.....
- niepewne dane - *i*..... *s*.....
- zostawic za sobą - *l*..... *sth in one's w*.....
- zostawic zniszczenia - *l*..... *a t*..... *of d*.....
- zmiesc osade z powierzchni ziemi - *w*..... *o*..... *a s*.....
- zerwac linie wysokiego napiecia - *d*..... *p*..... *l*.....
- spowodowac szkody i zniszczenia - *c*..... *d*..... *and d*.....

Complete the following phrases. Each line stands for one word.

Phrases to learn

1. How destructive were the winds?
2. Could the destruction of the fleet have been prevented?
3. What caused the flooding of coastal areas?
4. How could one save one's life?
5. Why is the number of dead unknown?
6. What other destructive elements have caused damage and casualties?

Answer the following questions.

Reading comprehension

- sweep v** (move at a fast pace) - zmiatac, hulać
- battering adj** (striking hard and often) - huraganowy
- gale n** (strong and violent wind) - wichura
- swath n** (clear a space after the passage of something) - pokos
- rip v** (tear with force) - oderwac
- mooring n** (place where a ship is secured) - miejsce do cumowania
- inundate v** (flood, cover with water) - zalac
- seek refuge** (look for shelter, run away to a safe place) - szukac schronienia
- presume v** (suppose to be true) - przypuszczac
- soar v** (go up quickly) - isc szybko w gore
- downgrade v** (reduce) - zmalec, zmniejszyc sie
- unsathed adj** (untouched, undisturbed) - niekniety, bez uszczerbku
- flatten v** (make flat, eden) - spaszczyc, zrownac z powierzchnia ziemi
- torrential adj** (pouring) - (o deszczu) ulewny, gwałtowny

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