

1

- A: What is the worst natural disaster that you can remember?
- B: The earthquake and tsunami in Japan.
- A: When did it happen?
- B: On 11th March. I remember I was visiting my aunt when I heard the news.
- A: Were many people killed?
- B: Yes, about 20,000 people died, and about 6,000 people were injured.
- A: There was a nuclear emergency as well, wasn't there?
- B: That's right. Three nuclear power stations were damaged by the earthquake and thousands of people were evacuated.
- A: Was it the biggest earthquake that has ever hit Japan?
- B: Yes, it was. It was the most difficult crisis for Japan since the Second World War.

2

- A: Have you ever experienced a natural disaster?
- B: No, but my grandparents' house was destroyed in a flood.
- A: Really? What happened?
- B: It rained very heavily for a few days, and their town was flooded.
- A: Were they hurt?
- B: No, fortunately they were rescued by firefighters.
- A: Did they lose everything?
- B: Yes, their house was knocked down a month later. It wasn't safe any more.
- A: Where did they stay after the flood?
- B: They were put up by my aunt for three months.

3

- A: I saw an excellent documentary last night.
- B: What was it about?
- A: It was about Pompeii.
- B: That's in Italy, isn't it?
- A: Yes, it is. But the documentary was about Pompeii in the year 79 A.D.
- B: What was it like then?
- A: It was a rich, modern city with 20,000 people.
- B: What happened to it?
- A: It was completely destroyed by a volcano, Mt Vesuvius. The city was covered with volcanic ash and rock and the people were killed. The city was found again in the 1700s.

4

- A: Have you ever heard of Tuvalu?
- B: No, what is it?
- A: It's a group of islands in the South Pacific.
- B: How many people live there?
- A: There are 9,000 inhabitants, but soon they will have to leave the islands.
- B: Are they becoming uninhabitable?
- A: Yes, hurricanes, rough seas and rising sea levels are destroying them.
- B: Rich countries should offer them a home. They have caused global warming.
- A: I totally agree, but in 2001 Australia refused to accept immigrants from Tuvalu.
- B: I don't agree with that decision. The people from Tuvalu should be allowed to live where they want.