

disastrous [di'zɑ:stɹəs]	désastreux
a tragedy	un drame, une tragédie
tragic	dramatique, tragique
a catastrophe [kə'tæstrəfi]	une catastrophe, un sinistre
catastrophic	catastrophique
a cataclysm ['kætəklɪzəm]	un cataclysme
to affect a region	toucher une région
a high-risk area	une zone à haut risque
to strike, to hit	frapper
to wreak havoc [ri:k 'hævək]	faire des ravages
to avert [ə'vɜ:t] a disaster	éviter, prévenir une catastrophe
the scope, the extent of the disaster	l'étendue, l'ampleur du sinistre
severe, extreme weather	très mauvais temps
to predict, to forecast the weather	prévoir le temps
the weather forecast	les prévisions météo(rologiques)
damage ['dæmɪdʒ]	les dégâts
to damage sth	abîmer qch
to do damage, to cause damage	causer des dégâts
to devastate, to ravage a region	dévaster, ravager une région
the worst-hit area	la zone la plus durement frappée
to be declared a disaster area	être déclaré zone sinistrée
to declare a state of emergency	déclarer l'état d'urgence
a disaster victim	un sinistré
to claim 25 lives	faire 25 morts
the death toll	le nombre de victimes, le bilan
a casualty ['kæʒjʊltɪ]	une victime
a corpse [kɔ:ps]	un cadavre
to flee one's home	fuir son domicile
a displaced person	une personne déplacée

Extreme weather events displaced a record seven million people from their homes during the first six months of this year, a figure that put 2019 on pace to be one of the most disastrous years in almost two decades even before Hurricane Dorian battered the Bahamas... The latest numbers reflect both bad news and good. Extreme weather events are becoming more extreme in the era of climate change, according to scientists, and more people are exposed to them, especially in rapidly growing and storm-prone coastal cities.

At the same time, many government authorities have become better at preparing for extreme weather, with early warning systems and evacuation shelters in place that have reduced event mass casualties.

*The New York Times*, September 12, 2019

drought [draʊt]	la sécheresse
a drought-stricken area	une zone frappée par la sécheresse
a famine ['fæmɪn]	une famine
to be hungry	avoir faim
hunger	la faim
to die of thirst	mourir de soif
to starve to death	mourir de faim
to be threatened with starvation	risquer de mourir de faim
malnutrition	la malnutrition
to be malnourished, undernourished	souffrir de malnutrition

The worst drought in three decades has left almost 20 million Ethiopians—one-fifth of the population—desperately short of food. And yet the country's mortality rate isn't expected to increase: in other words, Ethiopians aren't starving to death... How did Ethiopia go from being the world's symbol of mass famines to fending off (*repousser*) starvation? Thanks partly to some good fortune, but mostly to peace, greater transparency and prudent planning, Ethiopia's success in averting (*prévenir*) another disaster is confirmation that famine is elective because, at its core (*essentiellement*), it is an artifact and a tool of political repression.

Alex de Wall, *The New York Times*, May 8, 2016

a cold spell, a cold wave	une vague de froid
a heat wave	une canicule
a storm	une tempête, un orage
a tornado, a twister	une tornade
a hurricane ['hʌrɪkən], a cyclone ['saɪkləʊn]	un ouragan, un cyclone
a typhoon [taɪ'fu:n]	un typhon
to sweep across Thailand	balayer la Thaïlande

**Hurricane Katrina** struck the Bahamas and then southern Louisiana in August 2005 causing huge property damage (*dégâts matériels*) in the city of New Orleans, 80% of which flooded as nearly every levee (*digue*) was breached. With over 1,800 deaths and damage estimates (*évaluations des dégâts*) standing at more than \$100 billion, Hurricane Katrina was the largest natural disaster in the history of the US. Hurricane Dorian (2019) is the worst natural disaster in the history of the Bahamas: it caused an estimated \$7 billion in property damage and killed dozens of people, with another 70,000 left homeless.

thunder ['θʌndə(r)]	le tonnerre
lightning	les éclairs, la foudre
a flash of lightning	un éclair
heavy rainfall	de fortes précipitations, chutes de pluie
torrential rain	des pluies torrentielles, diluviennes
a flood [flʌd]	une inondation
flooding	des inondations
a flash flood	une crue subite
a flood-risk area	une zone inondable
to overflow	déborder

**El Niño**—the rise in surface temperatures of the Southern Pacific Ocean which occurs every five years or so (*environ*)—results in various climatic disturbances such as heavier than usual rainfall (*précipitations*) in parts of Brazil and Argentina, mudslides, droughts in Indonesia and Australia, as well as severe storms in California and the South of the USA.

a tsunami [tsuˈnɑ:mɪ]  
 a tidal [ˈtaɪdl] wave  
 a landslide  
 a mudslide  
 a snowstorm  
 an avalanche [ˈævələ:nʃ]  
 ice  
 snowdrift  
 an earthquake  
 a fault [fɔ:lt]  
 a fault line  
 the epicentre  
 (earth) tremor  
 the Richter scale  
 of magnitude 6  
 rubble [ˈrʌbl], debris [ˈdeɪzɪ]  
 to be trapped / buried in rubble  
  
 to be reported missing  
 the lack of drinking water  
 the spread of diseases  
 to spread

un tsunami  
 un raz-de-marée  
 un glissement de terrain  
 une coulée de boue  
 une tempête de neige  
 une avalanche  
 la glace OU le verglas  
 congère  
 un tremblement de terre, un séisme  
 une faille  
 une ligne de faille  
 l'épicentre  
 secousse tellurique, sismique  
 l'échelle de Richter  
 de magnitude 6  
 les décombres  
 être prisonnier  
 / enterré sous les décombres  
 être porté disparu  
 pénurie d'eau potable  
 la propagation de maladies  
 se propager

According to the authors of a report on natural hazards (*risques naturels*) and disasters, released by the Paris-based International Council for Science, there is "ample evidence to suggest that policy makers (*décideurs politiques*) may at times act in ignorance or disregard of (*sans tenir compte*) relevant scientific information and thereby significantly exacerbate damage resulting from natural hazards." They cite [...] financial incentives (*incitations*) that encourage short-term benefits at the expense of longer-term protection from natural hazards and land-use practices that increase risks from floods, landslides or wildfires.

*The International Herald Tribune*, Nov 11, 2005

a volcano [vɒlˈkeɪnəʊ]  
 a crater [ˈkreɪtəʃ]  
 to erupt [ɪˈrʌpt]  
 an eruption  
 lava [ˈlɑ:və]  
 a lava flow  
 ash  
 a fire  
 wildfire  
 bush fire

un volcan  
 un cratère  
 entrer en éruption  
 une éruption  
 la lave  
 une coulée de lave  
 les cendres  
 un incendie  
 des incendies de forêt  
 feu de brousse

There's no way to stop hurricanes, but one saving grace of the modern age is that they're easier and easier to predict. Meteorologists can tell with ever-greater precision when a hurricane is forming, when it will make landfall, and where exactly it will strike—allowing for carefully targeted evacuations and other methods. As a result, hurricanes are far less lethal (*meurtrier*) than they were in the 19th and 20th centuries. That's also one reason Katrina was such a shock to the public: it's the only post-1960 hurricane to kill more than 300 people in the United States. Earthquakes are a different matter. The biblical horror of the ground shaking under foot imbues them with a particular dread, and "early warning" might only constitute a few seconds.

*The Atlantic*, Sep 2, 2015

to rescue	sauver
a rescuer, a rescue worker	un secouriste, un sauveteur
a rescue party	une équipe de secours
a fireman, a firefighter	un pompier
to evacuate	évacuer
an evacuee	un évacué
to be safe	être en sécurité, hors de danger
safe and sound	sain et sauf
to escape unscathed, unharmed, unhurt from sth [ˈʌnˈskeɪtəd]	sortir indemne de qch
to survive	survivre
a survivor	un survivant, un rescapé

**Doctors without Borders** (also known as "*Médecins sans frontières*") is an NGO that was founded in 1971 by a group of French doctors, Bernard Kouchner among them. 80 % of the organization's budget comes from private donations, while the remaining 20% is supplied by governments and corporations. The organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

an NGO [ˌendʒiːˈəʊ]	une ONG
a charity, a charitable organization	une organisation caritative
a relief agency, a relief organization	une organisation humanitaire
a relief worker	un travailleur humanitaire
humanitarian aid, assistance	aide, assistance humanitaire
emergency aid, emergency relief, emergency assistance	secours, aide d'urgence
food aid	aide alimentaire
to provide, supply aid	fournir de l'aide
to insure sth [ɪnˈʃʊə]	assurer qch
an insurer	un assureur
an insurance company	une compagnie d'assurances
compensation	une indemnité, des indemnités
to compensate sb for sth	indemniser qn de qch
to get compensation, to get reimbursed	se faire indemniser
the precautionary principle, the safety-first principle	le principe de précaution

### Traduire en français

1. Will rainforests survive the increasing occurrence of wildfires as the climate changes?
2. 300,000 people are thought to have died in the Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, 2004.
3. Four years after Katrina, thousands of displaced residents in Mississippi and Louisiana were still living in trailers.
4. Donations of wheat and soybeans can stave off starvation in the short term, but they cannot keep hunger from returning year after year.
5. El Niño is Spanish for "the boy" and refers to the Christ child, because periodic warming in the Pacific near South America is usually noticed around Christmas.
6. In 1998, China experienced massive flooding of parts of the Yangtze River, resulting in 3,004 dead and 14 million homeless.
7. The remarkable thing about the 1918 flu pandemic is that it killed mostly healthy young adults.
8. Scientists have a hunch that rising temperatures due to human activity are making fire and flood more likely.
9. Seismologists think San Francisco is likely to be struck again by an earthquake similar to the one it experienced on April 18, 1906.
10. Policy makers may at times act in disregard of relevant scientific information and thereby exacerbate damage resulting from natural hazards.

### Traduire en anglais

1. Katrina a été la pire catastrophe naturelle à laquelle les États-Unis aient été confrontés jusqu'à présent.
2. Un typhon, c'est presque la même chose qu'un cyclone ou un ouragan, mais dans un pays tropical.
3. 15 000 personnes âgées sont mortes au cours de la canicule qui a sévi en France en août 2003.
4. Le tremblement de terre qui a secoué l'Italie en juin 2009 n'a pas fait de morts, mais les dégâts ont été importants.
5. Il y a toujours des gens qui meurent de faim en Afrique sub-saharienne.
6. Il y a des pluies diluviennes depuis plusieurs jours et toute la région risque d'être inondée.
7. On craint que de nombreuses personnes soient encore ensevelies sous les décombres.
8. Au lendemain des incendies qui ont ravagé le nord de la Grèce, la Turquie a décidé d'envoyer des hélicoptères et des sauveteurs.
9. L'éruption du volcan a été très impressionnante mais les dégâts sont somme toute limités.
10. Les organisations humanitaires se sont immédiatement mobilisées pour acheminer une aide alimentaire d'urgence vers la zone sinistrée.

### Questions

- Is climate change to blame for the severe weather the world has experienced recently?  
What is the worst natural disaster that has occurred in the past ten years?  
Why did Katrina cause such an uproar?  
Are natural disasters inevitable?

01. Placer les mots suivants : victim, wave, flow, party, spell, toll, wave, worker, flood, aid pour former des noms composés et traduire.

NOM COMPOSÉ	TRADUCTION
1. death.....	.....
2. heat.....	.....
3. flash.....	.....
4. relief.....	.....
5. lava.....	.....
6. rescue.....	.....
7. emergency.....	.....
8. cold.....	.....
9. disaster.....	.....
10. tidal.....	.....

02. Compléter avec les mots adéquats.

- The hurricane could wreak ..... among the Gulf's bird life, with large numbers of cormorants dying.
- The rain poured in torrents and the sky was rent with flashes of .....
- The authorities are expected to declare a state of .....
- Many people on the French coast did not even know their houses had been built in a flood-..... area.
- Images of children with distended bellies ..... to death during the famine in Ethiopia in 1984 still haunt many Westerners.

03. Donner la traduction des mots suivants qui sont à la fois noms et verbes.

1. damage • 2. thunder • 3. forecast • 4. flood • 5. spread

04. Trouver les dérivés des mots-racines à gauche.

<i>affamé</i>	hungry	.....	<i>la faim</i>
<i>sec</i>	dry	a.....	<i>une sécheresse</i>
<i>du mal</i>	harm	.....	<i>indemne</i>
<i>survivre</i>	to survive	a.....	<i>un survivant</i>
<i>évacuer</i>	to evacuate	an.....	<i>un évacué</i>

05. Quelle est la traduction correcte des faux-amis suivants ?

1. a natural hazard • 2. a corpse • 3. relief • 4. a fault • 5. a charity

## 34 — NATURAL DISASTERS

Translation from English into French

1. Will rainforests survive the increasing occurrence of wildfires as the climate changes? **Les forêts tropicales survivront-elles à la multiplication des incendies dus au changement climatique ?**
2. 300,000 people are thought to have died in the Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, 2004. **Le tsunami qui a frappé l'océan Indien le 26 décembre 2004 aurait fait 300 000 victimes.**
3. Four years after Katrina, thousands of displaced residents in Mississippi and Louisiana were still living in trailers. **Quatre ans après Katrina, des milliers de personnes déplacées au Mississippi et en Louisiane vivaient toujours dans des caravanes.**
4. Donations of wheat and soybeans can stave off starvation in the short term, but they cannot keep hunger from returning year after year. **Les dons de blé et de soja peuvent repousser la famine à court terme, mais ils ne peuvent empêcher la faim de revenir année après année.**
5. El Niño is Spanish for "the boy" and refers to the Christ child, because periodic warming in the Pacific near South America is usually noticed around Christmas. **El Niño, le mot espagnol pour « garçon », est une allusion au Christ parce que le réchauffement périodique dans le Pacifique près de l'Amérique du Sud se remarque d'habitude autour de Noël.**
6. In 1998, China experienced massive flooding of parts of the Yangtze River, resulting in 3,004 dead and 14 million homeless. **En 1998, la Chine a connu de graves inondations sur une partie du cours du Yangtze, provoquant la mort de 3 004 personnes et laissant 14 millions d'autres sans abri.**
7. The remarkable thing about the 1918 flu pandemic is that it killed mostly healthy young adults. **Ce qu'il y a de remarquable au sujet de la pandémie de grippe espagnole en 1918, c'est que ses victimes furent surtout de jeunes adultes en bonne santé.**
8. Scientists have a hunch that rising temperatures due to human activity are making fire and flood more likely. **Les scientifiques ont l'impression que l'élévation des températures due à l'activité humaine rend les incendies et les inondations plus probables.**
9. Seismologists think San Francisco is likely to be struck again by an earthquake similar to the one it experienced on April 18, 1906. **Les sismologues pensent qu'il est probable que San Francisco soit à nouveau frappée par un séisme semblable à celui qu'elle a connu le 18 avril 1906.**
10. Policy makers may at times act in disregard of relevant scientific information and thereby exacerbate damage resulting from natural hazards. **Il arrive parfois que les responsables politiques agissent sans tenir compte des informations scientifiques pertinentes et ainsi exacerbent les dégâts provoqués par les risques naturels.**

1. Katrina a été la pire catastrophe naturelle à laquelle les États-Unis aient été confrontés jusqu'à présent. **Katrina was the worst natural disaster the United States has faced up to now.**
2. Un typhon, c'est presque la même chose qu'un cyclone ou un ouragan, mais dans un pays tropical. **A typhoon is almost the same thing as a cyclone or a hurricane, but in a tropical country.**
3. 15 000 personnes âgées sont mortes au cours de la canicule qui a sévi en France en août 2003. **15,000 elderly people died in the heat wave that swept across France in August 2003.**
4. Le tremblement de terre qui a secoué l'Italie en juin 2009 n'a pas fait de morts, mais les dégâts ont été importants. **No one died in the earthquake that shook Italy in June 2009 but the damage was serious.**
5. Il y a toujours des gens qui meurent de faim en Afrique sub-saharienne. **There are still people starving to death in sub-Saharan Africa.**
6. Il y a des pluies diluviennes depuis plusieurs jours et toute la région risque d'être inondée. **There has been torrential rain for several days and the whole area may be flooded.**
7. On craint que de nombreuses personnes soient encore ensevelies sous les décombres. **Many are still feared to be buried in the debris.**
8. Au lendemain des incendies qui ont ravagé le nord de la Grèce, la Turquie a décidé d'envoyer des hélicoptères et des sauveteurs. **In the wake of the fires which devastated northern Greece, Turkey decided to send helicopters and rescue workers.**
9. L'éruption du volcan a été très impressionnante mais les dégâts sont somme toute limités. **The eruption of the volcano was very impressive but at the end of the day, the damage was limited.**
10. Les organisations humanitaires se sont immédiatement mobilisées pour acheminer une aide alimentaire d'urgence vers la zone sinistrée. **Relief agencies took action immediately to send emergency food aid to the disaster area.**