

Disasters – Before the Big Storm

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 **TOP OF THE TIMES**

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KATRINA'S AFTERMATH

Hurricane Rita Rattles Coast

With predictions that it could match Katrina's strength, the storm spreads fear as it enters the gulf. It could hit Texas by week's end.

By John-Thor Dahlburg, Scott Gold and Maria L. La Ganga, Times Staff Writers

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Rita slashed past the Florida Keys and swelled in strength Tuesday as it treaded into the Gulf of Mexico with 115-mph winds. Weather forecasters warned that the storm could approach the ferocious Category 4 intensity of Hurricane Katrina, prompting massive preparations by jittery officials and residents from flood-numbed New Orleans to the Texas coastline.

(...)

Centered about 145 miles west of Key West early today, the storm's projected path would direct it through the Gulf of Mexico toward the Texas coast, near the major oil-refining and port city of Galveston, where 57,000 residents were ordered to evacuate this morning. Weather Service experts said there was only a remote chance that Rita would repeat Katrina's devastating assault on New Orleans, but authorities were concerned that steady rains might overwhelm weakened levees and re-flood the broken city's low-lying areas.

[Note: jittery = nervous, tense]

1) Read the text above and explain the following expressions in your own words

- a) "it could match Katrina's strength"

- b) "Hurricane Rita slashed past the Florida Keys"

- c) "'flood-numbed New Orleans"

- d) "57,000 residents were ordered to evacuate"

- e) "steady rains might overwhelm weakened levees"

2) Tick True or False and find the correct answer where necessary

- a) Experts say that the storm is not as dangerous as Hurricane Katrina was. T / F
- b) Many residents are afraid of the hurricane. T / F
- c) Rita has reached New Orleans already. T / F
- d) New Orleans residents and officials are very relaxed about the situation. T / F
- e) According to experts, the upcoming hurricane is far more dangerous than heavy rainfalls. T / F

3) Chose one of the tasks below and write about 150 – 200 words

- a) You are a police officer or fire fighter in Texas. Hurricane Rita is about to hit your town. You must put up an emergency plan for your town's evacuation, and, for those who cannot flee the town, a list of things to do and not to do
- b) Hurricane Rita has hit a town where many poor people, mostly Black Americans, could not flee because they had no money, no car or no place to go. Now they have lost everything; their homes, their property, maybe even their relatives or friends. One of them tells their story.
- c) You are a news reporter, covering the storms arrival in the affected area live on TV.

Disasters – After the Big Storm



picture 1



picture 2



picture 3

1) Look at the pictures above. Then match the three short texts with the correct photograph

a) Looking toward the spot where her house once stood, 11-year-old Carla Castillo walks through the floodwaters in her hometown of Cameron, Louisiana. (Brian Vander Brug / LAT) September 27, 2005

b) Homes and property lie in ruin and over a foot of water in the town of Cameron, Louisiana. Residents of the sportsman's paradise say they will return and rebuild. (Brian Vander Brug / LAT) September 27, 2005

c) An American flag lies amid the ruins of the town of Cameron, Louisiana. (Brian Vander Brug / LAT) September 27, 2005

2) Describe the pictures

First, describe each of the pictures in a few sentences, trying to be as objective as possible. You should barely describe what you can see.

Then, write another short description for each picture, this time introducing your subjective opinion – what you feel when you look at the pictures – by using as many adjectives as possible.

3) Choose one of the pictures; Imagine you are a person affected by the disaster. write an inner monologue (150 – 200 words)