



Typhoon Season in Taiwan

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

Typhoon season in Taiwan typically spans from June through October, when warm ocean waters in the western Pacific generate some of the most powerful storms on Earth. The island's mountainous geography and tropical climate make it particularly **vulnerable** to these tempests, which can bring torrential rain, destructive winds, and dangerous storm surges to coastal communities within a matter of hours.

When the Central Weather Administration issues a typhoon warning, the entire country shifts into a state of careful preparation. Local governments may declare a typhoon day, suspending schools and offices, while residents rush to supermarkets to **stockpile** instant noodles, bottled water, and fresh produce. Shopkeepers tape windows in distinctive crisscross patterns, and outdoor signs are hastily dismantled to prevent them from becoming projectiles.

Despite Taiwan's remarkable infrastructure, typhoons can cause severe **disruption** to daily life. Mountain villages are sometimes cut off when landslides bury narrow roads, and farmers in the south frequently watch helplessly as their crops are flattened by relentless winds. The economic toll can be staggering, with agricultural losses alone occasionally reaching billions of New Taiwan dollars in a single season.

However, typhoons also play a crucial **ecological** role on the island. Taiwan depends heavily on these annual storms to replenish its reservoirs, which supply drinking water to millions of residents in densely populated cities like Taipei and Kaohsiung. Without sufficient rainfall during peak season, the country can quickly face serious water shortages and rationing measures the following spring.

Over the decades, Taiwanese society has developed an extraordinary **resilience** in the face of these annual visitors. Engineers continually upgrade flood-prevention systems, communities organize neighborhood evacuation drills, and a sophisticated emergency response network mobilizes rapidly whenever danger approaches. For many residents, typhoon season represents not only a threat to manage but also a shared cultural experience that reinforces the island's collective spirit of adaptation.

A. Vocabulary

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. vulnerable _____ | a. organized movement of people away from a dangerous area |
| 2. torrential _____ | b. taken apart or removed piece by piece |
| 3. stockpile _____ | c. fill something up again after it has been used or emptied |
| 4. disruption _____ | d. easily harmed or affected by something negative |
| 5. dismantled _____ | e. describing rain that falls in heavy, sudden quantities |
| 6. ecological _____ | f. gather and store large supplies of something for future use |
| 7. replenish _____ | g. interruption that prevents normal activity from continuing |
| 8. resilience _____ | h. related to the relationship between living things and their environment |
| 9. evacuation _____ | i. ability to recover quickly from difficulty or hardship |
| 10. staggering _____ | j. extremely large, surprising, or shocking in scale |

B. True or False

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ 1. Typhoon season in Taiwan generally lasts from June through October. | ___ 2. Taiwan's flat geography makes it less vulnerable to typhoon damage. |
| ___ 3. The Central Weather Administration is responsible for issuing typhoon warnings in Taiwan. | ___ 4. Residents commonly stockpile instant noodles and bottled water before typhoons arrive. |
| ___ 5. Shopkeepers tape windows in crisscross patterns as a safety precaution. | ___ 6. Typhoons rarely cause any agricultural damage to Taiwan's farmers. |
| ___ 7. Taiwan's reservoirs depend on typhoons to replenish their water supply. | ___ 8. Water rationing never occurs in Taiwan, regardless of rainfall amounts. |
| ___ 9. Landslides during typhoons can isolate mountain villages from outside help. | ___ 10. Taiwanese communities have shown little ability to adapt to typhoon threats. |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: vulnerable, stockpile, disruption, ecological, resilience, torrential, evacuation, dismantled

1. Coastal villages are especially _____ to flooding when a powerful typhoon approaches the island.
2. Before the storm arrives, many families _____ enough food and water to last several days.
3. Heavy rainfall often causes serious _____ to public transportation throughout northern Taiwan.
4. Annual typhoons play a vital _____ role by refilling the island's reservoirs each year.
5. The remarkable _____ of Taiwanese communities allows them to recover quickly after major storms.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. Why is Taiwan particularly vulnerable to the effects of typhoons?
2. In what positive way do typhoons contribute to life in Taiwan?
3. How have Taiwanese communities adapted to the annual threat of typhoons?

E. Discussion Questions

1. How does your home country prepare for major natural disasters, and what could it learn from Taiwan's approach to typhoon season?
2. Do you think the benefits typhoons bring to Taiwan, such as refilling reservoirs, outweigh the damage they cause? Why or why not?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-d, 2-e, 3-f, 4-g, 5-b, 6-h, 7-c, 8-i, 9-a, 10-j

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-vulnerable, 2-stockpile, 3-disruption, 4-ecological, 5-resilience

D. Comprehension:

1. Taiwan's mountainous geography and tropical climate make it especially susceptible to torrential rain, destructive winds, and storm surges generated by Pacific typhoons.
2. Typhoons play a crucial ecological role by replenishing reservoirs that supply drinking water to millions of residents in major cities.
3. Communities have built resilience through upgraded flood-prevention systems, evacuation drills, and a sophisticated emergency response network that mobilizes quickly when storms approach.