Natural Disasters: Earthquakes and Tsunamis

Activity 1
With your partner explain what you understand by the following words.

a) catastrophe    disaster    crisis    tragedy    emergency

b) missing    victim    casualty    injured    survivor    rescuer

Activity 2
Match the words on the left with their partners on the right to form useful ‘disaster’ collocations.

- Aid
- Distribute
- Relief
- Washed/swept
- Cut
- Affected
- Stricken
- Medical

aid    off    supplies    workers    regions    effort    away    areas

Activity 3
Use the collocations from Activity 2 to complete the extract from a newspaper article below.

“In some cases whole towns have been (1) ……………………. by the waves. In some of the (2) …………………...
entire communities are still totally (3) ………………….. because the surrounding infrastructure has been
destroyed by either the tsunami, the earthquake or both. International charity organisations and
(4)…………….. are finding it hard to (5)……………………… including vital (6)…………………….. to the
(7)……………….., partly due to the size of the (8)……………….. and partly due to the scale of the destruction.”

Activity 4
Go to EnglishClub.com and click on the ‘TP Homework’ icon. Use the information you find there to answer
the questions below.

1. Why do many earthquakes go unrecorded?
2. Where did the strongest earthquake ever recorded occur?
3. What caused the tsunami on 27th August 1883?
4. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 5
Should tourists be going ahead with holidays at the moment in the countries which are still
suffering the effects of the recent tsunami?

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to EnglishClub.com and click on the ‘TP
Discussion’ icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN
YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO
READ!

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