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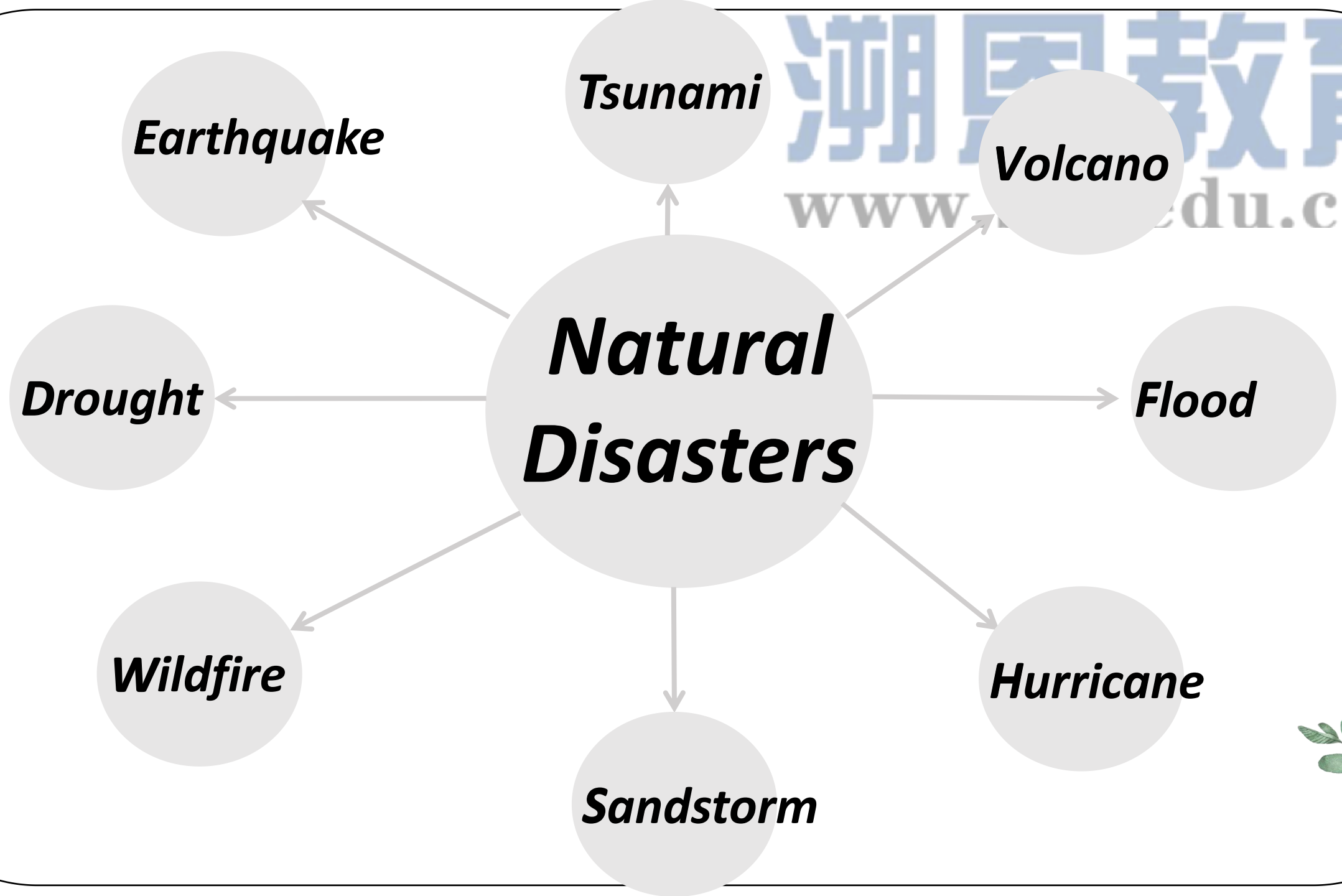
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Natural Disasters

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**We cannot stop natural disasters
but we can arm ourselves with knowledge ...**



eye·wit·ness *n.* /ˈaɪwɪtnəs/ 

a person who has seen a crime, accident, etc. and can describe it afterwards

The Story of an Eyewitness (Adapted)

Jack London

- | |
|---|
| 1. ~ (about/of sth/sb) a description of events and people that the writer or speaker has invented in order to entertain people (虚构的) 故事; 小说 |
| 2. ~ (about/of sth/sb) an account, often spoken, of what happened to sb or of how sth happened (真实情况的) 叙述, 描述 |
| 3. an account of past events or of how sth has developed 对往事的叙述 |
| 4. a report in a newspaper, magazine or news broadcast 新闻报道 |

Q1. Who is the eyewitness?

Q2. What event is the eyewitness describing?

Q3. Which do you think is the proper meaning of “The story”?

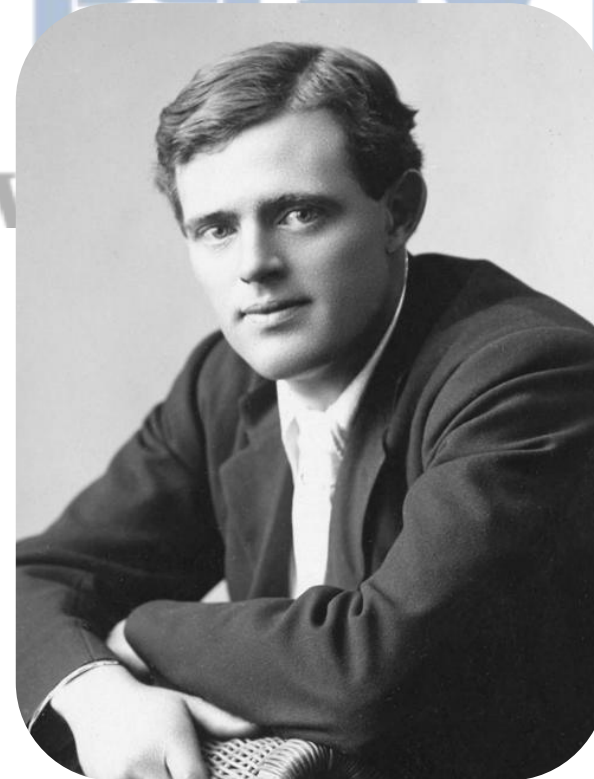


The background information

The western American city of San Francisco, California suffered a huge earthquake on April 18th, 1906.

Just a few hours after the terrible earthquake, a magazine named Collier's sent a telegraph message to the famous American writer Jack London. They asked Mister London to go to San Francisco and report about what he saw.

He arrived in the city only a few hours after the earthquake. The report he wrote is called, "THE STORY OF AN EYEWITNESS." In more than two weeks , it was published.



Jack London (1876-1916)

A famous American novelist and journalist. One of his most famous works is "The Call of The Wild".

Para 1

The earthquake (San Francisco, April 18, 1906)

shook down

hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of walls and chimneys

Destructive

Damage

The fire that followed

burned up

hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of buildings and homes

Greater damage

Never before in history has a city been so completely destroyed. **Inversion**

San Francisco is gone.

Complete destruction

Para 2

On Wednesday
morning

Para 3

By Wednesday
afternoon

Para 4

On Wednesday
night

April 18



Para 2 *On Wednesday morning*



at a quarter past five

The earthquake **Unpredictable**



a moment later

The fire **Unavoidable**

The sun was red in the dark sky.



*within an hour of
the first quake*

The smoke

Unstoppable



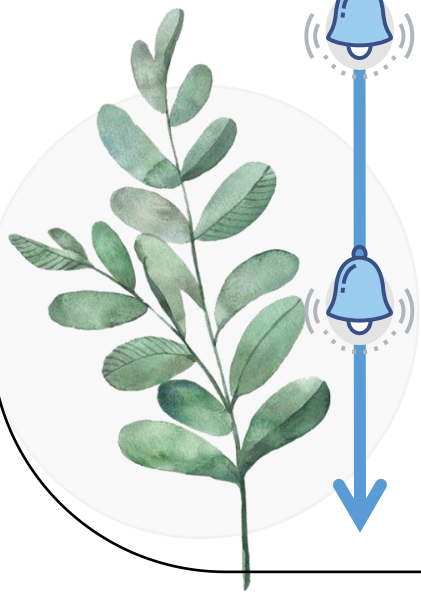
There was no stopping the fires. =The fires can not be stopped.

The firefighters did their best.

Brave , Selfless & responsible

All of the ways...were gone.

Destructive



Para 3-4

On Wednesday morning

San Francisco is gone. (Para1)

All of the ways man had made to keep the city safe were gone. (Para2)

Repetition

By Wednesday afternoon

Half the heart of the city was gone.

I on a ship on the bay/ out at sea It was calm. No wind came up.

in the unlucky city Contrast Strong winds blew upon from every direction

On Wednesday night

The very heart of the city was gone.

**Terrible
Cruel**

Wednesday night saw the destruction of the very heart of the city.

Personification

The earthquake

Destructive

Unpredictable

Unavoidable

Unstoppable

Terrible

Cruel

*How did the people of San Francisco
behave during the disaster?*

The firefighters did their best

Man himself had to make ruins...

Tens of thousands left the city ...

Some were dressed ...and carried...

*There were no fights and no pushing
or shoving.*

The people

Brave & Selfless

Responsible

Considerate

Helpful & Kind

Hopeful

Well-mannered

The worst of disasters brought out the best in the survivors.

The worst of disasters brought out the best in the survivors.

Never before in history has a city been so completely destroyed.

The earthquake

Contrast

The people

Echo

Never in all of San Francisco's history were her people so kind as on this night of terror.



San Francisco in 1906



San Francisco now



What makes the change and difference?
Where there is love and hope, there is a way.

Further thinking: What can you get from the story?

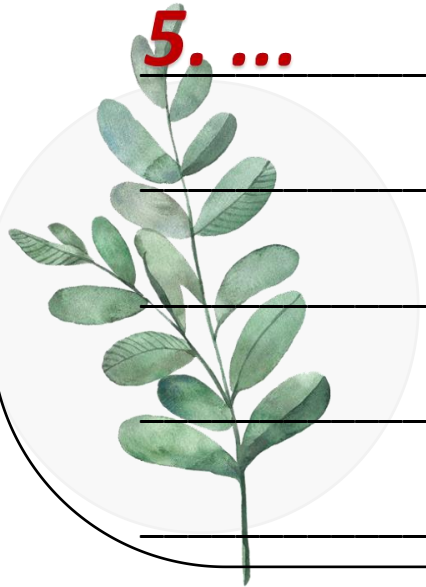
1. Where there is love and hope, there is a way.

2. We cannot stop natural disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge and bravery.

3. Live to tell: raising awareness, reducing mortality.

4. Many hands make light work.

5. ...



Assignment: *Read the passage again and write a summary of the text.*

These questions may be helpful for you to organise the summary:

- 1. What was the first disaster?*
- 2. When and where did it happen?*
- 3. What was the second disaster?*
- 4. What damage did it cause?*
- 5. How did people behave?*
- 6. Who described the event?*



Reference Version

The first disaster was the earthquake that struck San Francisco on Wednesday, April 18, 1906 at 5:15 in the morning. The second disaster was the fires caused by the earthquake. These fires destroyed half of the city centre in a day. But people behaved well and there was no fighting or pushing. Jack London described the event from a ship in the harbour.



Thank you!

