

# *M1U4 Earthquakes*



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**On August 10th, there was a serious disaster in Linhai Taizhou,  
Eastern Zhejiang Province.**

**What was it ?**



**Typhoon Lekima**



Trees *fell down*



The traffic was stopped.  
Water, food and *electricity* were hard to get



People were *trapped* there and couldn't get out in a short time.



The city was *in ruins*.



*Rescuers* helped the trapped people.

*A night the earth didn't sleep*

1. What is the writing style of this passage?

A. *An exposition (说明文)*

B. *An argumentation(议论文)*

C. *A narration(记叙文)*

**2. What is structure of the passage?**

**3. What is the order of the passage?**

*1. Strange things were happening in the countryside of northeast Hebei. For three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. Farmers noticed that the well walls had deep cracks in them. A smelly gas came out of the cracks. In the fields, the chickens were looking for places to hide. Fish jumped out of the water and lay on the ground. At night, people saw bright lights in the sky. The sound of planes could be heard outside the city of Tangshan even when no planes were in the sky. In the city, the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people of the city, who thought little of the events, were asleep as usual that night.*

## **Part 1(para 1) : Before the earthquake**

*2. At 3:42 am everything began to shake. It seemed as if the world was at an end! Eleven kilometers directly below the city the greatest earthquake of the 20th century had begun. It was felt in Beijing, which is more than two hundred kilometers away. One-third of the nation felt it. A huge crack that was eight kilometers long and thirty meters wide cut across houses, roads and canals. Steam burst from holes in the ground. Hard hills of rock became rivers of dirt. In fifteen minutes the city lay in ruins. The suffering of the people was extreme. Two-thirds of them died or were left with serious injuries.*

## **Part 2(para 2-3) : During the earthquake**

*3. But how could the survivors believe it was natural? Everywhere they looked nearly every building was gone. Hospitals, 75% of its factories and buildings and 90% of its homes were gone. Bricks covered the ground like red autumn leaves. No wind, however, could blow them away. Two dams fell and most of the bridges also fell on the ground. The railway tracks were now useless pieces of steel. Tens of thousands of cows would never give milk again. Half a million pigs and millions of chickens were dead. Sand now filled the wells instead of water. People were shocked. Then, later that afternoon, another big quake which was almost as strong as the first one shook Tangshan. Some of the trapped rescue workers and doctors were killed. People began to wonder how long the disaster would last.*

*4. All hope was not lost. Soon after the quakes, the army sent 150,000 soldiers to Tangshan to help the rescue workers.*

## **Part 3(para 4) After the earthquake**

*Those who were trapped and to bury the dead. Workers built shelters for survivors whose homes had been destroyed. Fresh water was taken to the city by train, truck and plane. Slowly, the city began to*

time

*Strange? things were happening in the countryside of northeast Hebei. For three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. Farmers noticed that the well walls had deep cracks in them. A smelly gas came out of the cracks. In the farmyards, the chickens and even the pigs were too nervous to eat. Mice ran out of the fields looking for places to hide. Fish jumped out of their bowls and ponds. At about 3:00 am on July 28, 1976, some people saw bright lights in the sky. The sound of planes could be heard outside the city of Tangshan even when no planes were in the sky. In the city, the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people of the city, who thought little of these events, were asleep as usual that night.*

**Topic sentence?**

# Read for Beginning—Para 1

Strange things were happening in the countryside of northeast Hebei. ① For three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. ② Farmers noticed that the well walls had deep cracks in them. ③ A smelly gas came out of the cracks. ④ In the farmyards, the chickens and even the pigs were too nervous to eat. ⑤ Mice ran out of the fields looking for places to hide. ⑥ Fish died out of their bowls and ponds. ⑦ At about 3:00 am on July 28, 1976, there were some bright lights in the sky. ⑧ The sound of planes could be heard over Tangshan even when no planes were in the sky. ⑨ In the city, thousands of people thought little of these events, were asleep as usual that night.



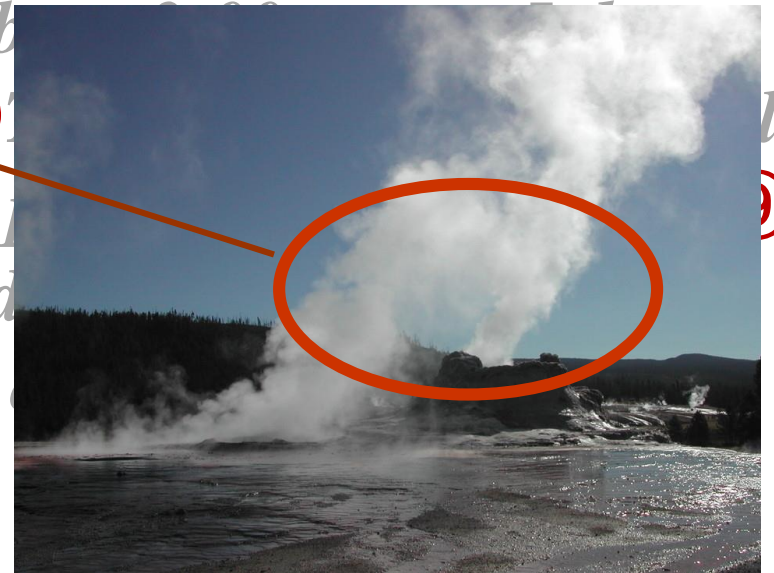
## Read for Beginning—Para 1

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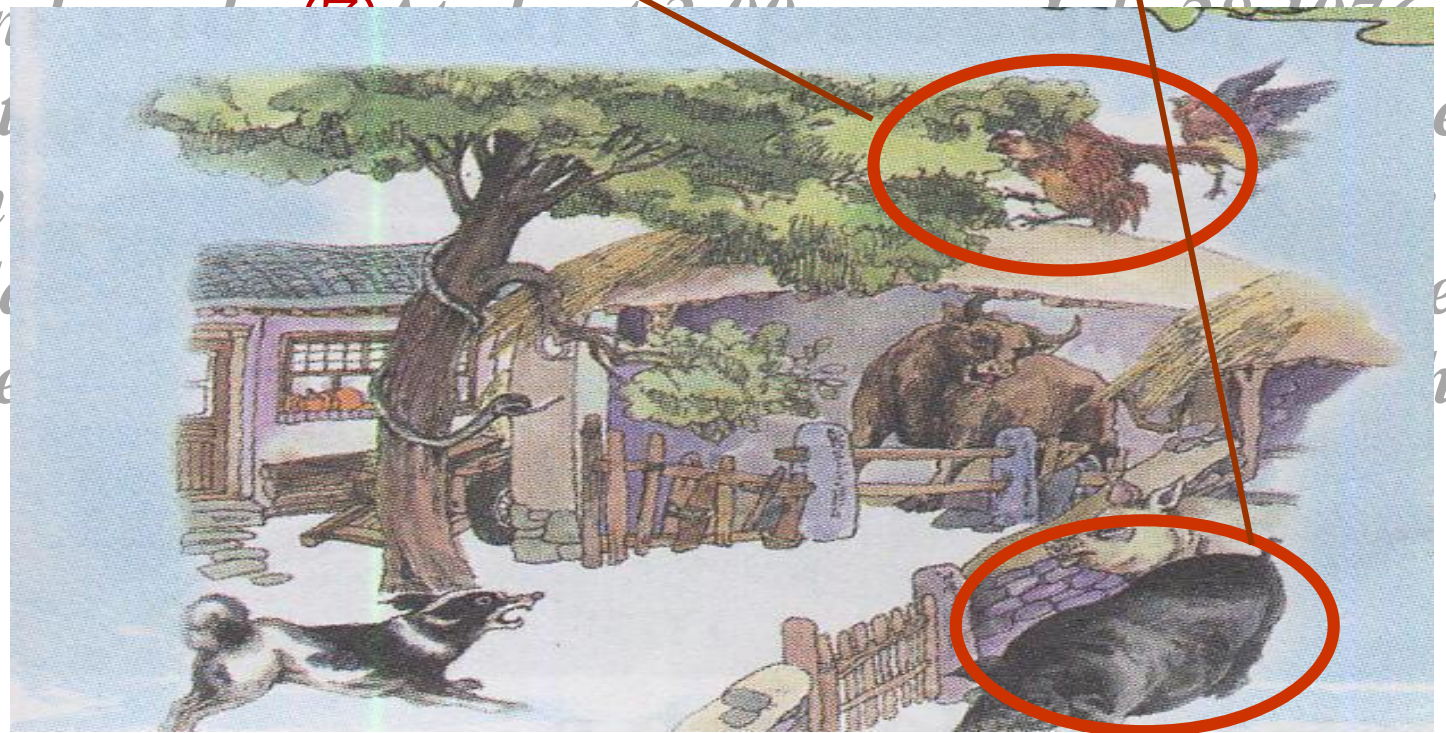
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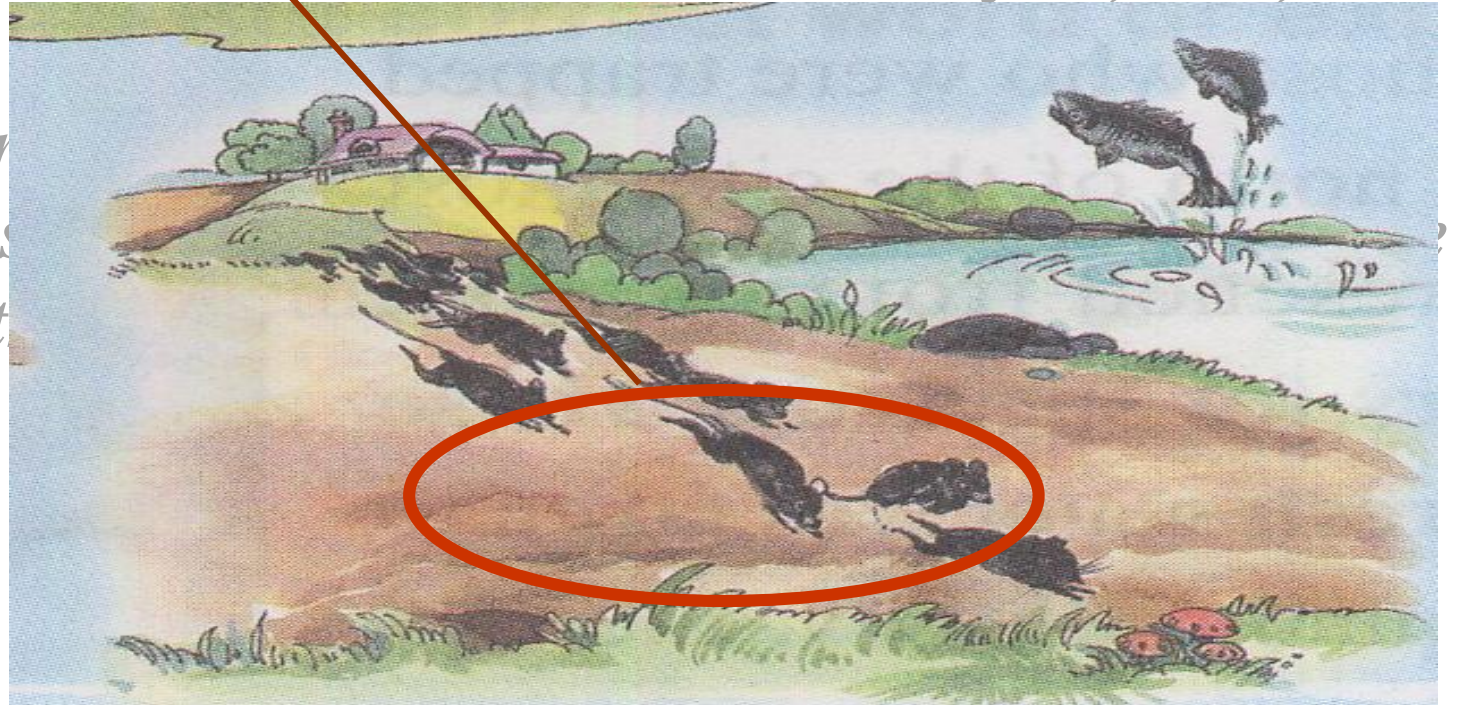
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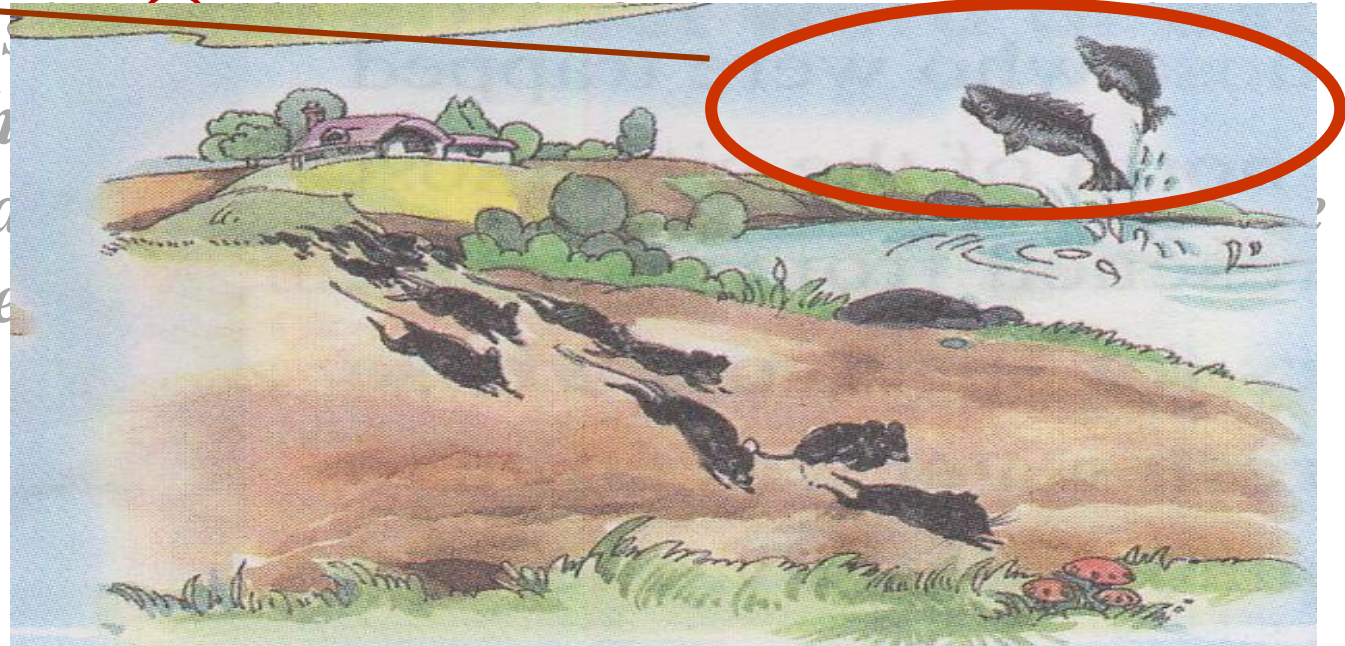
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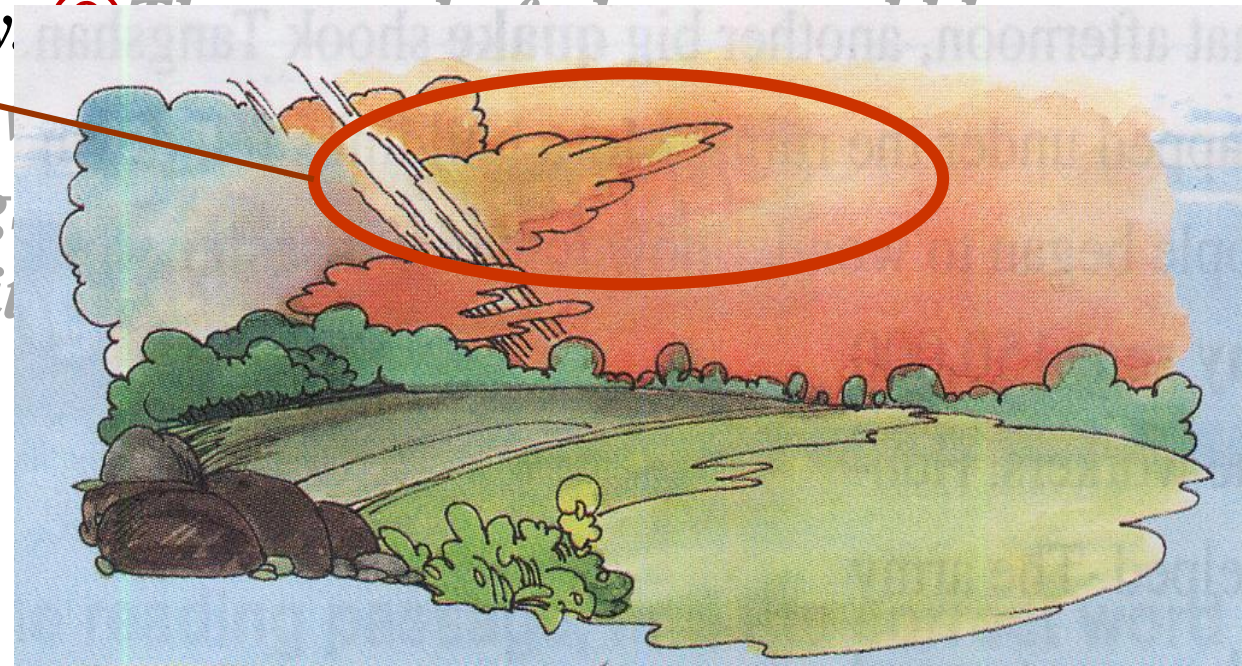
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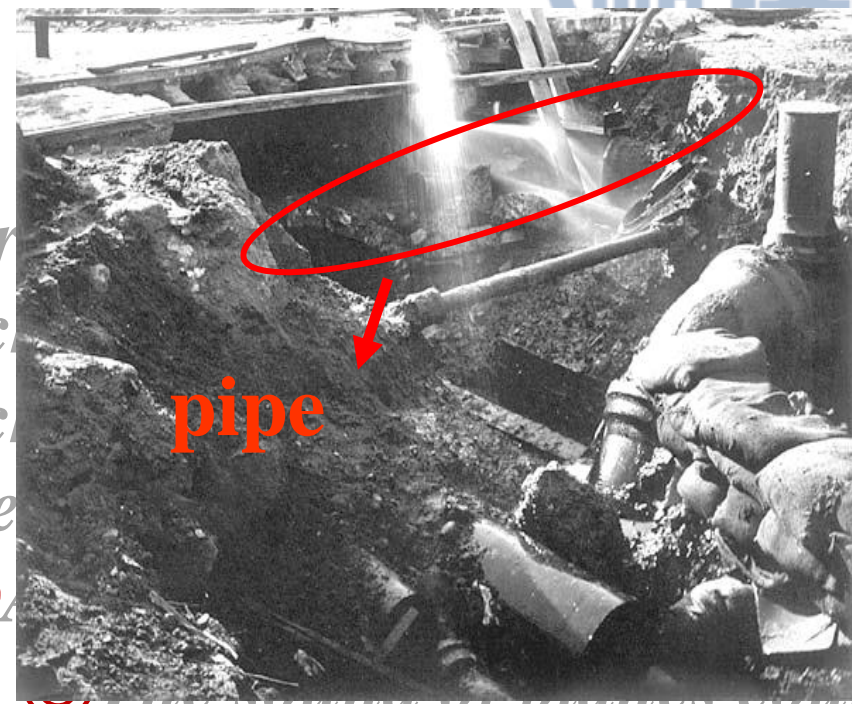
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*Strange things were happening in the countryside of northeast Hebei. ① For three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. ② Farmers noticed that the well walls had deep cracks in them. ③ A smelly gas came out of the cracks. ④ In the farmyards, the chickens and even the pigs were too nervous to eat. ⑤ Mice ran out of the fields looking for places to hide. ⑥ Fish jumped out of their bowls and ponds. ⑦ At about 3:00 am on July 28, 1976, some people saw bright lights in the sky. ⑧ The **sound of planes** could be heard outside the city of Tangshan **even when no planes** were in the sky. ⑨ In the city, the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people of the city, who thought little of these events, were asleep as usual that night.*

# Read for Beginning—Para 1

Strange things were happening in the three days the water in the village wells noticed that the well walls had deep cracks. **④** In the farmyards, the chickens were nervous to eat. **⑤** Mice ran out of the fields. **⑥** Fish jumped out of their bowls and ponds. **⑦** some people saw bright lights in the sky. **⑧** The sound of planes could be heard outside the city of Tangshan even when no planes were in the sky. **⑨** In the city, the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people of the city, who thought little of these events, were asleep as usual that night.



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## Strange Signs

## Read for Beginning—Para 1

*Strange things were happening in the countryside of northeast Hebei. ① For three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. ② Farmers noticed that the well walls had deep cracks in them. ③ A smelly gas came out of the cracks. ④ In the farmyards, the chickens and even the pigs were too nervous to eat. ⑤ Mice ran out of the fields looking for places to hide. ⑥ Fish jumped out of their bowls and ponds. ⑦ At about 3:00 am on July 28, 1976, some people saw bright lights in the sky. ⑧ The sound of planes could be heard outside the city of Tangshan even when no planes were in the sky. ⑨ In the city, the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people of the city, who thought little of these events, **Transitional Sentence** night.*

**Function?**

*Strange things were* **Topic Sentence** *in the northeast Hebei. ① For*  
*three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. ② Farmers*  
*noticed that the well walls had deep cracks in them. ③ A smelly gas came out of*  
*the cracks. ④ In the farmyards, the chickens and even the pigs were too*  
*nervous to eat.* **Supporting Sentences** *. ⑥ Fish*  
*jumped out of their ponds. ⑦ On the evening of July 28, 1976,*  
*some people saw bright lights in the sky. ⑧ The sound of planes could be heard*  
*outside the city of Tangshan even when planes were in the sky. ⑨ In the city,*  
*the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people*  
*of the city, who* **Transitional Sentences** *did not know what was going to happen that night.*

*Strange* things were happening in the countryside of northeast Hebei.

three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell. ② Farmers noticed that the cracks in the walls were getting longer and deeper.

**a common way of expressing unusual things**

the cracks. ④ In the farmyards, the chickens and even the pigs were too nervous to eat. ⑤ Mice ran out of the fields looking for places to hide. ⑥ Fish jumped out of their bowls and ponds.

contrast

some bright lights in the sky. ⑧ The sound of planes could be heard outside the city of Hebei.

**People's ignorance of these unusual things**

the water pipes in some buildings cracked and burst. But the one million people of the city, who *thought little of* these events, were asleep *as usual* that night.

Function?

The sharp contrast between the commonly unusual signs and people's usual behaviors further implies the huge cost and negative impacts the earthquake brings to the city

## Read for Developing — Para 2-3

*2. At 3:42 am everything began to shake. It seemed as if the world was at an end! Eleven kilometers directly below the city the greatest earthquake of the 20th century had begun. It was felt in Beijing, which is more than two hundred kilometers away. One-third of the nation felt it. A huge crack that was eight kilometers long and thirty meters wide cut across houses, roads and canals. Steam burst from holes in the ground. Hard hills of rock became rivers of dirt. In fifteen terrible seconds a large city lay in ruins. The suffering of the people was extreme. Two-thirds of them died or were left without parents. More than 400,000 people were killed.*

**How does the author express the severity of the earthquake?**

*3. But how could such a disaster happen? The earthquake shook nearly everything and 90% of its homes were destroyed. All the houses were gone. Bricks covered the ground like red autumn leaves. The wind, however, could blow them away. Two dams fell and most of the bridges also fell or were not safe for travelling. The railway tracks were now useless pieces of steel. Tens of thousands of cows would never give milk again. Half a million pigs and millions of chickens were dead. Sand now filled the wells instead of water. People were shocked. Then, later that afternoon, another big quake which was almost as strong as the first one shook Tangshan. Some of the rescue workers and doctors were trapped under the ruins. More buildings fell down. Water, food, and electricity were hard to get. People began to wonder how long the disaster would last.*

2. At 3:42 am **everything began to shake**. It seemed as if the world was at an end! Eleven kilometers directly below the city the greatest earthquake of the 20th century had begun. It was felt in Beijing, **which is more than two hundred kilometers away**. **One-third of the nation** felt it. **A huge crack** that was **eight kilometers long and thirty meters wide** cut across houses, roads and canals. Steam burst from holes in the ground. Hard hills of rock became rivers of dirt. **In fifteen terrible seconds a large city lay in ruins**. **The suffering of the people was extreme**. **Two-thirds** of them died or were left without parents. **The number of people who were killed or injured reached more than 400,000**.

*The extent of the earthquake*

*The severity of the earthquake*



*An unbelievable amount of loss*

## Read for Developing — Para 2-3

3. *But how could the survivors believe it was natural? Everywhere they looked nearly everything **was destroyed**. All of the city **Did people have time to shock?** buildings and 90% of its homes **were gone**. Bricks covered the ground like red autumn leaves. No wind, however, could blow them away. Two dams **fell** and most of the bridges also **fell** or were not safe for travelling. The railway tracks were now useless pieces of steel. Tens of thousands of cows would **never** see the grass again. **trapped** (v.) to keep sb in a dangerous place or bad situation of that they want to get out of but cannot **were dead**. Sand now filled the streets. **Then, later that afternoon, another big quake** which was almost as strong as the first one shook Tangshan. **Some of the rescue workers and doctors were trapped** under the ruins. **More buildings fell down**. Water, food, and electricity **were hard to get**. People began to **wonder how long the disaster would last**.*

desperate and hopeless

## Read for Resolution—Para 4

*4. All hope was not lost. Soon after the quakes, the army **sent** 150,000 soldiers to Tangshan to **help** the rescue workers. Hundreds of thousands of people were helped. The army **organized** teams to **dig out** those who were trapped and to **bury** the dead. To the north of the city, most of the 10,000 miners **were rescued** from the coal mines there. Workers **built shelters** for survivors whose homes had been destroyed. Fresh water **was taken to** the city by train, truck and plane. Slowly, the city began to breathe again.*

Why?

A series of actions bring hope to the earthquake-stricken areas



## Sentence examples

## Function

- At about 3:00 am on July 28, 1976, some people saw bright lights in the sky.

Indicate the exact time of the earthquake

- At 3:42 am everything began to shake.

- 1/3 nation felt it.

- In 15 seconds

- 2/3

- More than 400,000

# Numbers

without parents.

- More than 400,000 or injured.

- 75% of its factories and buildings and 90% of its homes were gone.

# Convincing

- 150,000 soldiers were sent to Tangshan to help the rescue workers.

- Hundreds of thousands of people were helped.

- most of the 10,000 miners were rescued

Indicate the hope after the earthquake

1. *Can you think of a title for the passage? Give your reasons*

# *A Night the Earth Didn't Sleep*

**Personification**

*Usually time for sleep*

*Unusual time for sleep due to the disastrous earthquake*

# Read for Appreciation

Sentence	Figures of Speech	Function
For three days the water in the village wells rose and fell, rose and fell.	Repetition	to make a deeper impression on the reader
It seemed that the world was at an end!	Exaggeration	to emphasize the seriousness of the disaster and people's desperation
Bricks covered the ground like red autumn leaves.	Simile	to create a vivid image of the ruins
Slowly, very slowly, the city began to breathe again.	Personification	to create a vivid image

# Homework

Try to imitate Para 1 and write your own experience of a natural disaster in a short paragraph with the words given, at least five.

*burst, pipes, at an end, in ruins, suffering,  
injured, disaster, electricity, dig out, shelter..*

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