

Tonga trying to clean up after tsunami and volcano

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A cleanup operation has begun in Tonga after the island nation was hit by a tsunami and covered in volcanic ash at the weekend. The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai undersea volcano erupted on Saturday. Experts believe it was

the world's biggest volcanic eruption in over 30 years. It sent tsunami waves across the Pacific to Japan and the U.S. coast. It also destroyed large parts of Tonga. Islanders are now trying to restore services and normal life to the country. However, the ash is making this difficult. A lot of the rescue and recovery work cannot go ahead until the ash has been cleared. It has buried many buildings. It is also blocking many of the country's roads.

Tonga's government called the eruption from the volcano and the tsunami "unprecedented". It said the twin disasters have severely affected life on the island. There is no Internet because the only underwater cable connecting Tonga to the World Wide Web was cut by the eruption. Engineers are trying to restore full communications. It is also difficult to fly aid into the country because the airport is damaged. Tonga's government is worried that rescue efforts may bring COVID-19 into the country. Tonga shut its borders to international arrivals in 2020. It said it was "covid-free" before the tsunami. It now fears international aid workers could bring a "tsunami of COVID-19" into the country.

Sources: cnn.com / the-sun.com / nytimes.com

Writing

The whole world should send aid teams to help Tonga. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

cleanup / operation / island / weekend / volcano / tsunami / normal life / ash / rescue / government / disasters / Internet / communications / cable / aid / borders / fears

True / False

- 1) The cleanup of Tonga hasn't started yet. T / F
- 2) Experts think the eruption was the biggest in over three decades. T / F
- 3) The tsunami destroyed parts of the U.S. coast. T / F
- 4) The cleanup operation is difficult because there's so much ash. T / F
- 5) Tonga said the twin disasters were unprecedented. T / F
- 6) The volcano's eruption cut Tonga's Internet cable. T / F
- 7) The airport in Tonga did not get damaged. T / F
- 8) Aid workers have brought Covid-19 into Tonga. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. begun | a. one-of-a-kind |
| 2. experts | b. assistance |
| 3. destroyed | c. start |
| 4. difficult | d. specialists |
| 5. go ahead | e. badly |
| 6. unprecedented | f. knocked down |
| 7. severely | g. closed |
| 8. worried | h. started |
| 9. shut | i. concerned |
| 10. aid | j. hard |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why are the disasters 'unprecedented'?
- c) What would life be like with no Internet in a country?
- d) Should aid workers go to Tonga?
- e) Is Tonga right to worry about a covid-19 wave?
- f) How long do you think it will take Tonga to recover?
- g) What can you do to help the people of Tonga?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Tonga's government?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. A cleanup operation has | a. communications |
| 2. the island nation was hit | b. go ahead |
| 3. It sent tsunami waves | c. affected life |
| 4. the rescue and recovery work cannot | d. country's roads |
| 5. blocking many of the | e. borders |
| 6. the twin disasters have severely | f. across the Pacific |
| 7. trying to restore full | g. workers |
| 8. rescue | h. begun in Tonga |
| 9. Tonga shut its | i. efforts |
| 10. international aid | j. by a tsunami |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about this story?
- What do you know about Tonga?
- How can we help the people of Tonga?
- What do you think of tsunami?
- What should people do in a tsunami?
- Have you ever experienced a natural disaster?
- How would you cope if a natural disaster hit your town?
- What advice do you have for people in Tonga?

Spelling

- A cleanup pnoeiotra has begun
- covered in oilaccvn ash
- etedupr on Saturday
- Islanders are now trying to torrsee services
- the rescue and vecyerro work
- ongilcbk many of the country's roads
- Tonga's evnrgmoent
- the twin ssdietsra
- eyvrseel affected life on the island
- underwater acelb
- Tonga shut its berrdos
- international rsarliav

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Internet

You think the Internet is the most important thing to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): blankets are, tents are or medicine.

Role B – Blankets

You think blankets are the most important things to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): the Internet, tents are or medicine.

Role C – Tents

You think tents are the most important things to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): blankets are, the Internet or medicine.

Role D – Medicine

You think medicine is the most important thing to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): blankets are, tents are or the Internet.

Speaking – Necessities

Rank these with your partner. Put the most necessary things in a natural disaster at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| • Internet | • Radios |
| • Blankets | • Clothes |
| • Tents | • Snacks |
| • Medicine | • Food |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.