

Prova di Lingua Straniera – Inglese –

Prova A: Questionario

“The environment: Hurricane Katrina”

A hurricane is a very strong storm with winds faster than 119 km per hour. These storms start over the sea. When the storm hits the land, it can cause serious damage from wind, floods and rain.

When the storm Katrina formed over the Caribbean on 23rd August 2005, people called it a tropical storm. Two days later it was so powerful, that it officially became a hurricane. It hit Florida, where nine people died. On 29th August it hit the Gulf Coast of the USA.

By this time it was a Category 5 hurricane – the strongest kind of hurricane. The hurricane went on for nine days before it disappeared on 31st August.

New Orleans is just above the Gulf of Mexico in the State of Louisiana. This area is famous for hurricanes. The Mississippi river flows through the city, and there is a big lake, Lake Pontchartrain, to the north. The river and the lake are on higher ground than the city. Because of this, the people of New Orleans built high banks, called levees, to prevent the river and lake flooding the city. But the levees weren't strong enough to resist a Category 5 hurricane, and they broke. Water came flooding from the lake into the city. It damaged buildings, and also the water, sewage and power supplies.

The people of New Orleans were expecting the hurricane, and the authorities told them to leave the city. But the authorities did not organise the departure from the city very well.

Many citizens did not have cars, or enough money to leave. Many were old and too weak to travel. After the levees broke, 80% of the city was under water. About 100,000 people couldn't leave their homes.

There was no food and water, and people began to steal from shops. About 25,000 people were living in the Superdome Stadium, in very bad conditions. There was a lot of crime there, and six people died.

After almost a week, and much criticism, the government started sending food, water and medicine. They also sent the police and the army to keep control. Helicopters and rescue boats took thousands of people away from the city.

At least 1,300 people died during the hurricane, but there are still hundreds of people missing today. Before Hurricane Katrina, the city's population was about 450,000 people. Today around 150,000 people are still living somewhere else, and have not returned to their homes.

Hurricane Katrina was one of the most damaging hurricanes in the history of the USA.

Questions:

1. What is a hurricane?
2. Where and when did it happen?
3. How long did it go on?
4. How did it all start?
5. Which State is New Orleans in?
6. Why did the city of New Orleans suffer so badly?
7. What did the people of New Orleans do to prevent the flood?
8. Why did the levees break?
9. What damage did it cause to New Orleans?
10. What did the authorities do for the event?
11. What happened to the people of New Orleans?
12. How did the US government react?

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13. How many people died?

14. Do you remember a similar tragic event occurred in your country recently?

Prova B: Lettera

Write a letter in which you describe the holiday of your dreams! Follow these guiding points:

a) where you'll go; b) who you'll go with; c) how long you'll stay there; d) what you'll do; e) why you would like to go there.