

A Dangerous Landslide

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One night in March 2014, mud broke loose from a tall hillside near the town of Oso, Washington. The giant mass of wet soil moved downhill quickly. It eventually covered thirty nearby houses with mud and dirt. Many people were hurt.

Landslide is the word many people use to describe this kind of emergency. This landslide happened when very heavy rains soaked the ground near Oso.

At the beginning of any muddy landslide, wet ground breaks loose. As the mud moves, it may rip bushes, boulders, trees, and other things out of the ground.

Landslides can cause serious damage. A big landslide could bury homes and badly injure people in its path. Landslides can also dump huge amounts of wet dirt onto roads and highways. This added enormous weight could wreck cars and might even cause the road to collapse.

If a landslide happens near an area that includes buildings, it could break water lines, gas lines, or electrical lines. That kind of damage could also start fires.

Scientists are trying to figure out how to help people be safe in areas where landslides occur. The best thing, experts say, is to have a plan for what to do if this kind of moving-earth emergency happens.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The article describes an example of a real-life landslide. Where did this landslide happen?

- A. Washington, D.C.
- B. Seattle, Washington
- C. Oso, Washington

2. This article describes some damage that can be caused by landslides. What is one possible effect of a landslide?

- A. the mud on a hillside could dry up
- B. heavy rains could soak the ground
- C. a road or highway could collapse

3. In Oso, a large amount of wet soil and mud broke loose from a tall hill and covered thirty nearby houses. This landslide happened when very heavy rains soaked the ground near Oso.

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. Heavy rains may have been a cause of the landslide in Oso.
- B. The houses in Oso covered by the landslide had already been flooded from the rains.
- C. Landslides only ever happen after heavy rains.

4. What kind of town would most likely be in danger of landslides?

- A. a town at the bottom of a muddy hill
- B. a town surrounded by flat, muddy land
- C. a town at the top of a hill

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Landslides are a dangerous kind of emergency that can cause a lot of damage.
- B. Landslides can break water lines, gas lines, or electrical lines.
- C. A landslide in Oso, Washington, covered thirty nearby houses and hurt many people.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"One night in March 2014, mud broke loose from a tall hillside near the town of Oso, Washington. The giant mass of wet soil moved downhill quickly. It eventually covered thirty nearby houses with mud and dirt. Many people were hurt."

Why does the author begin the article with this paragraph?

- A. to show readers why landslides can be more dangerous than other kinds of emergencies
- B. to give readers a real-life example of a landslide and the damage it caused
- C. to tell readers not to move to Oso because of the dangers of landslides there

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Experts say it's important for people to have a plan _____ they can stay safe if a landslide happens.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. What moves downhill quickly during a landslide?

9. What are three examples from the text of how a landslide can cause serious damage?

10. Experts say that it is good to have a plan for what to do if a landslide happens. If a landslide happened, would driving to another area be a good plan? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
