



921 Earthquake

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

The 921 **earthquake** happened on September 21, 1999, in Taiwan. It started at 1:47 in the morning, when most people were sleeping. The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.6. It was one of the biggest and most powerful earthquakes in Taiwan's history.

The earthquake began in central Taiwan, near a small town called Jiji. The ground shook very strongly for about 40 seconds. Buildings moved, and some roads broke apart. Many people woke up frightened and ran outside into the dark streets.

The **damage** was very serious. More than 100,000 homes were destroyed or badly broken. Many schools, bridges, and roads were also ruined. Some tall buildings began to **collapse** and fall down. More than 2,400 people lost their lives, and many thousands more were hurt.

After the earthquake, **rescue** workers came quickly to help. Soldiers, firefighters, and volunteers searched for people under fallen buildings day and night. Other countries also sent teams to help Taiwan. Many **survivors** were found alive under the rubble. People around the world sent food, water, and medicine to help.

Taiwan slowly rebuilt after the earthquake. The government and people worked hard together to repair homes and schools. September 21 is now a special day in Taiwan. People remember those who died and learn about staying safe during earthquakes. Taiwan built stronger buildings to prepare for future earthquakes.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. earthquake ____ | a. harm or injury done to something |
| 2. magnitude ____ | b. people who stay alive after something terrible happens |
| 3. shake ____ | c. person who helps others without being paid |
| 4. damage ____ | d. number that shows how strong an earthquake is |
| 5. collapse ____ | e. to build something again after it is destroyed |
| 6. rescue ____ | f. to fall down suddenly |
| 7. survivors ____ | g. to save someone from danger |
| 8. rubble ____ | h. broken pieces of buildings after they fall down |
| 9. volunteer ____ | i. sudden, violent shaking of the ground |
| 10. rebuild ____ | j. to move quickly back and forth |

B. True or False

- | | |
|--|--|
| ____ 1. The 921 earthquake happened on September 21, 1999. | ____ 2. The earthquake started at 1:47 in the afternoon. |
| ____ 3. The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.6. | ____ 4. The earthquake began in southern Taiwan. |

___ 5. The ground shook for about 40 seconds.

___ 7. More than 2,400 people lost their lives in the earthquake.

___ 9. Many survivors were found alive under the rubble.

___ 6. Only a few homes were destroyed by the earthquake.

___ 8. No other countries sent help to Taiwan after the earthquake.

___ 10. Taiwan did not build any stronger buildings after the earthquake.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: earthquake, damage, collapse, survivors, rescue, shake, magnitude, rebuild

1. The 921 _____ happened in Taiwan on September 21, 1999.

2. The _____ from the earthquake destroyed more than 100,000 homes.

3. Some tall buildings began to _____ and fall to the ground.

4. Workers came quickly to _____ people who were trapped under fallen buildings.

5. Many _____ were found alive under the broken buildings.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. When did the 921 earthquake happen, and what time did it start?

2. How many people lost their lives in the earthquake?

3. How did people from other countries help Taiwan after the earthquake?

E. Discussion Questions

1. What would you do to stay safe if an earthquake happened while you were sleeping?

2. Why is it important for a country to remember a terrible event like the 921 earthquake?



Answer Key

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

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-earthquake, 2-damage, 3-collapse, 4-rescue, 5-survivors

D. Comprehension:

1. The 921 earthquake happened on September 21, 1999, and it started at 1:47 in the morning.
2. More than 2,400 people lost their lives in the earthquake.
3. Other countries sent rescue teams, food, water, and medicine to help the people of Taiwan.