

### America's Deadliest Disaster

**To the teacher:** We suggest using these questions with the **lower-Lexile version** of the story, supported by the **lower-Lexile audio version**. Select the ones that are best for your students, depending on where they are in their acquisition of English. Ask them orally or choose questions to create your own written assignment. If students are ready, prompt them to follow up their answers with more details.



#### Yes/No Questions

These questions allow students who are new to English to show their understanding with a simple answer.

1. Was Galveston a small town in 1900? (*No, it wasn't.*)
2. Did most people believe a hurricane would hit Galveston? (*No, they didn't.*)
3. Was Harry's house destroyed? (*No, it wasn't.*)
4. Was Harry able to rescue anyone? (*Yes, he was.*)
5. Did most of Galveston's residents die in the storm? (*No, they didn't.*)
6. Was this hurricane the most deadly American natural disaster ever? (*Yes, it was.*)

#### Either/Or Questions

These questions allow slightly more-advanced students to use the language in the question to support their answer.

1. Did Harry have an easy or a difficult life before the hurricane? (*He had an easy life.*)
2. Does a storm become a hurricane at 74 or 180 miles per hour? (*It becomes a hurricane at 74 mph.*)
3. Were scientists' predictions about the hurricane correct or incorrect? (*Their predictions were incorrect.*)
4. Was Harry's mom generous or selfish? (*His mom was generous.*)
5. Did Galveston become richer or poorer after the storm? (*Galveston became poorer.*)

#### Short-Answer Questions

These questions prompt students to produce simple answers on their own with language from the text.

1. Why did Harry first want to ignore the woman's screams for help? (*Harry couldn't swim, and the storm waters were dangerous.*)
2. Look at the captions in the article. Name two things that Galveston was known for before the hurricane. (*Galveston was known for its riches, its beaches, its restaurants, its concert halls, and so on.*)