

Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to Know

Directions: As you come across words in bold in "America's Deadliest Disaster," ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activity on the following page.

1. **absurd:** "Just a few years before, one respected weather forecaster had written that the idea of a hurricane striking Galveston was '**absurd**.'" (p. 8)
Meaning: ridiculous
2. **churning:** "Outside, the wild, **churning** ocean was like a furious beast devouring his neighborhood." (p. 4)
Meaning: swirling or moving violently
3. **debris:** "In minutes, the entire city was transformed into a raging sea, filled with **debris**." (p. 8)
Meaning: pieces of something that has been destroyed
4. **devouring:** "Outside, the wild, churning ocean was like a furious beast **devouring** his neighborhood." (p. 4)
Meaning: eating in a fast and hungry way
5. **immigrants:** "Arriving ships were crowded with **immigrants**—people coming to America to start new lives." (p. 6)
Meaning: people moving to a new country
6. **predictions:** "Not surprisingly, most of their **predictions** were wrong." (p. 7)
Meaning: statements about what you think is likely to happen in the future
7. **prone:** "True, this glittering city was **prone** to flooding." (p. 6)
Meaning: especially at risk for or likely to be affected by
8. **reclaim:** "But it would never **reclaim** its place as the richest and most important city in Texas." (p. 9)
Meaning: get back
9. **surge:** "But the most devastating part of a hurricane is the 'storm **surge**.'" (p. 7)
Meaning: a sudden large and powerful movement, often created by water
10. **transforming:** "New inventions and fresh ideas were **transforming** lives all across the country, especially in cities like Galveston." (p. 5)
Meaning: changing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to Know, p. 2

Directions: Complete each sentence below, being sure it makes sense.

1. Our parents wouldn't let us jump into the churning ocean water because _____
_____.
2. Even though the basketball team lost the tournament this year, next year they hope to reclaim _____
_____.
3. Predictions from weather forecasters help people _____
_____.
4. The caterpillar hatched from its egg and began devouring _____
_____.
5. I thought it was absurd that _____
_____.
6. The family was transforming their backyard by _____
_____.
7. It is especially important to wear sunscreen if you are prone to _____
_____.
8. The immigrants were thankful that _____
_____.
9. The surge of water from the storm caused _____
_____.
10. After the building was torn down, construction workers cleaned up debris, like _____
_____.