

“British English ESL/EFL Lesson plans for English Language Teachers Worldwide featuring news from Central Europe”

Philippines calamity following tropical storm

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

8th October 2009

Category: Far East / Philippines / Tropical Storm Ketsana
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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THE ARTICLE

Philippines calamity following tropical storm

Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst ever flooding with more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were displaced. A further 380,000 people ended up in makeshift shelters. Telephone and power services to the capital were cut. The government declared a "state of calamity" in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and a huge number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation camps were desperately short of food, water and clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the storm as an "extreme event."

Many survivors had different tales to tell. One spent the night with families trapped on rooftops without food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as they were swept along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes who rescued more than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on rooftops. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating floodwaters. The current was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped through the streets. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along with high tides, compounded the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "It was tragic that people drowned in their own houses as the storms raged." Some 40cm (16") of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average for the whole of September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines on Saturday crossing the main northern Luzon island before heading out towards the South China sea.

Philippines calamity following tropical storm (V3) – 12th October 2009

The tropical storm went on to hit Vietnam where it caused more chaos. So far 22 people there have been killed because of the storm that increased its strength to 150km/h. Another 170,000 people were evacuated. Meanwhile the Philippine government has appealed for international foreign aid. Public buildings, universities and the Presidential Palace in Manila have become relief centres. Tents were erected in the grounds of the Presidential Palace. After word of President Arroyo's offer spread people converged on the Palace where they were offered noodles and canned sardines. The situation could become much worse if aid supplies run out. The death toll has risen sharply from the initial figure of 100. Rescue workers continue to pull dead bodies from the mud and swollen river banks. More deaths are expected as the thick mud is cleared from the worst affected parts of the city. Many people in the city have lost everything bar the clothes they were wearing.

LET'S START

1. Tropical storms: What do you know about tropical storms? In what part of the world will you find them? What time of the year do they happen? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Philippines: In what *region/part of the world* are the Philippines? Name the countries that surround them. What is the capital of the Philippines? Think of 3 things you know about the Philippines. Go round the room swapping details.

3. Dictation: The teacher will read 4 to 6 lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page 2 - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

4. Reading: Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

5. Vocabulary: Students look through the article. Underline/highlight any vocabulary you do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through & explain any words or phrases you do not understand.

Philippines calamity following tropical storm (V3) – 12th October 2009

6. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. Let's tell a story! Manila floods: Below are 20 words and phrases from the article. Use them to compile your own story about Manila flooding. (Imagine!) Add 2 words of your own. Tell your story to your partner. (*Maybe tick off your words as you tell it*)

1	tropical storm	11	clinging on
2	a state of calamity	12	current
3	makeshift shelters	13	high tides
4	Manila	14	hero
5	donations	15	rooftops
6	Philippine president	16	rubbish-choked drains
7	Philippines	17	floodwaters
8	survivors	18	weekend
9	rescue	19	swept away
10	food, water and clothes	20	submerged

Your choice 1 _____ Your choice 2 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

8. Let's write! A charity business e-mail: You are a charity manager in your country. Following Tropical Storm Ketsana you are putting together supplies ready to send to the Philippines by air to help the flood victims in Manila. You desperately need more things like tents, first aid etc... Prepare and send a business e-mail to your teacher. Include 6 items you desperately need - in bullet form. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

9. Let's talk! A tropical storm: In pairs. Imagine you are two travellers in a pub during a tropical storm somewhere in the Far East. You are having a drink together. You get talking about the tropical storm, your personal experiences of it, what happened to you, the flooding, the news you heard of people saving lives etc... *5-minutes*.

10. Presentation: Tropical storms: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a 1-minute presentation on **Tropical storms**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

11. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think giving aid to the people in the Philippines is a good idea. Students B think otherwise – you think there are other more deserving current aid projects to help. Explain why.

Philippines calamity following tropical storm (V3) – 12th October 2009

12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': With your partner or in small groups: (1 point for each correct answer. Lose ½ point if you look at the article for help!)

Student A

- 1) Which city is mentioned?
- 2) Name the Philippine president.
- 3) Name the hero.
- 4) Name the river.
- 5) How much rain fell within 12 hours on Saturday in Manila?
- 6) What was the wind speed in the Philippines on Saturday?

Student B

- 1) Where did the winds cross and head out to?
- 2) How many flood victims were there?
- 3) How many people ended up in makeshift shelters?
- 4) What percentage of Manila was submerged?
- 5) Name the storm.
- 6) How many people were killed?

13. Let's think! Tropical storms: Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with '**Tropical storms**' as you can. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

14. Let's compile! Sentences: Choose six/nine of the words from No 13. Write two/three sentences using two/three words in each. Underline your chosen words. The teacher will if necessary correct your work. Students might be asked to read their sentences aloud.

15. Let's think! 10 things about the Philippines: Think of 10 things you know about the Philippines? Write them below. Then tell your partner about your findings. (You may need to use the internet on this) What is the most unusual thing? What is the most obvious? What is the most expensive?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

16. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Tropical storms _____
- b) The Philippines _____
- c) The wind _____
- d) Manila was _____
- e) The river _____

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: After reading the article guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The tropical storm cause more than 550,000 people to be displaced | T / F |
| b. 35 provinces in the Philippines were affected by the storm | T / F |
| c. Muelmar Magallanes was a true hero | T / F |
| d. Some 40cm of rain fell on Manila in 12 hours on Saturday | T / F |
| e. People were swept along the Marikina river | T / F |
| f. Tropical Storm Kerry swept across Manila towards Vietnam | T / F |
| g. 380,000 people ended up in makeshift camps | T / F |
| h. The Presidential Palace was opened to look after survivors | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. converge | lowest |
| b. tropical | worst |
| c. devastation | cool |
| d. worst | remains |
| e. submerged | enlist |
| f. calamity | monsoon |
| g. volunteer | come together |
| h. calm | drowned |
| i. storm | equatorial |
| j. debris | ruin |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter | calamity" in Manila and 25 provinces |
| b. One of the worst places to be affected | the devastated areas. |
| c. It suffered its worst ever flooding with more | were desperately short of food |
| d. Telephone and power services | houses as the storms raged |
| e. The government declared a "state of | floodwaters ripped through the streets. |
| f. survivors in makeshift evacuation camps | were swept along the Marikina river. |
| g. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited | was the capital Manila. |
| h. At its worst people clung to debris as they | to the capital were cut. |
| i. The current was incredibly strong as the | devastation across the country recently |
| j. people drowned in their own | than 80% of the city submerged. |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Philippines calamity following tropical storm

_____ rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst ever _____ with more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were _____. A further 380,000 people ended up in _____. Telephone and power services to the capital were cut. The government declared a "state of _____" in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and a huge number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation _____ were desperately short of food, water and clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the _____ as an "extreme event."

Many _____ had different tales to tell. One spent the night with families _____ on rooftops without food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as they were _____ along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes who rescued more than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on _____. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating _____. The current was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped through the streets. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along with high _____, compounded the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "It was _____ that people drowned in their own houses as the storms _____." Some 40cm (16") of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average for the whole of September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines on Saturday crossing the main northern Luzon island before heading out towards the South China sea.

camps
calamity
flooding
makeshift
displaced
storm
shelters
torrential
swept
tragic
floodwaters
raged
survivors
trapped
rooftops
tides

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Philippines calamity following tropical storm

Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across _____. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst _____ more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were displaced. A further 380,000 people ended up in _____. Telephone and power services to the capital were cut. The government declared a "_____ " in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, _____ number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation camps were desperately short of food, _____. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the storm as an "extreme event."

Many survivors _____ to tell. One spent the night with families trapped on rooftops without food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as they were swept along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes _____ than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on rooftops. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating floodwaters. The current was incredibly strong _____ ripped through the streets. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along _____, compounded the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "It was tragic that people drowned in their own houses as the storms raged." Some 40cm (16") of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average _____ September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines on Saturday crossing _____ Luzon island before heading out towards the South China sea.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Has your house/apartment ever been flooded? If yes, when?
- c. What is the worst flooding you can remember seeing?
- d. *When/what* year was the worst flood in your country's history?
- e. Have you ever lived in a state of calamity?
- f. What extreme events have you witnessed?
- g. Have you ever rescued anyone? If yes, when? How?
- h. What charities do you support?
- i. Have you ever been evacuated due to a disaster? If yes, when?
- j. Have you ever been a volunteer to help in a disaster?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. Have you ever been in a tropical storm? Where? When?
- c. Are you scared of tropical storms?
- d. Have you ever been to Manila?
- e. Have you ever experienced flooding? Where?
- f. What is the worst rainfall you can remember?
- g. Have you ever fallen in a river?
- h. How would you feel if you had to wait 24 hours on top of your roof for help if your home was flooded?
- i. What would you say to the people of Manila whose homes were lost?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's brainstorm!

The Far East

Allow 10-20 minutes

Small groups

In small groups brainstorm some ideas about **The Far East**. (You might need to use the internet) Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative! *10-20 minutes.*

	Your ideas	
1) 5 capitals in the Far East. Plus 5 countries in the Far East	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2) 5 cities/towns in the Philippines. Plus 5 different languages spoken in the Philippines	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
4) 5 recent tropical storms in the Far East Plus 5 recent news stories about the Philippines	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
5) 5 things you know about the Philippines. Plus 5 President's of the Philippines	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
6) 5 different foods of the Philippines. Plus 5 different drinks of the Philippines	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
7) Your choice!	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

The teacher can moderate the session.

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average for the whole of September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines on Saturday crossing the main northern Luzon island before heading out towards the South China sea.
- () was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped through the streets. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along with high tides, compounded the
- () flooding with more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were displaced. A further 380,000 people ended up in makeshift shelters. Telephone and power
- () clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the storm as an "extreme event." Many survivors had different
- () flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "It was tragic that people drowned in their own houses as the storms raged." Some 40cm (16") of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on
- () number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation camps were desperately short of food, water and
- () river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes who rescued more than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on rooftops. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating floodwaters. The current
- (1) Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst ever
- () services to the capital were cut. The government declared a "state of calamity" in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and a huge
- () tales to tell. One spent the night with families trapped on rooftops without food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as they were swept along the Marikina

Philippines calamity following tropical storm (V3) – 12th October 2009

LANGUAGE: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst ever flooding with more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were displaced. A further 380,000 people ended up in makeshift shelters. Telephone and (1)___ services to the capital were cut. The government declared a “state of calamity” in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and a huge number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation camps were desperately short of food, water and clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the storm as an “extreme event.” Many survivors had different tales to tell. One spent the night with families trapped on rooftops (2)___ food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people (3)___ to debris as they were swept along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes who rescued more than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on rooftops. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating floodwaters. The (4)___ was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped through the (5)__. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked (6)___ and waterways, along with high tides, (7)___ the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, “It was (8)___ that people drowned in their own houses as the storms raged.” Some 40cm (16”) of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average for the whole of September. Winds of 100kph (9)___ the Philippines on (10)___ crossing the main (11)___ Luzon island before heading out towards the South (12)___ sea.

1.	(a)	power	(b)	tower	(c)	shower	(d)	bower
2.	(a)	wither	(b)	withheld	(c)	without	(d)	within
3.	(a)	dung	(b)	stung	(c)	bung	(d)	clung
4.	(a)	currently	(b)	current	(c)	currant	(d)	currants
5.	(a)	streets	(b)	roads	(c)	hills	(d)	boulevards
6.	(a)	drains	(b)	pains	(c)	stains	(d)	rains
7.	(a)	compounds	(b)	compounded	(c)	compound	(d)	pound
8.	(a)	magic	(b)	tragically	(c)	trade	(d)	tragic
9.	(a)	het	(b)	hat	(c)	hut	(d)	hit
10.	(a)	Thursday	(b)	Friday	(c)	Saturday	(d)	Sunday
11.	(a)	western	(b)	northern	(c)	southern	(d)	eastern
12.	(a)	Japanese	(b)	Korean	(c)	China	(d)	Malaysian

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst (1)___ flooding (2)___ more than 80% of the city submerged. (3)___ (4)___ 246 people were killed. (5)___ 450,000 people were displaced. A further 380,000 people ended up in makeshift shelters. Telephone and power services to the capital were cut. The government declared a "state of calamity" in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. (6)___ allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and a huge number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue (7)___ 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation camps were desperately short of food, water and clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. (8)___ appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the storm as an "extreme event."

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Many survivors had different tales to tell. One spent the night (1)___ families trapped on rooftops without food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as (2)___ were swept along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes who rescued (3)___ than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on rooftops. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating floodwaters. The current was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped (4)___ the streets. People (5)___ they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along with high tides, compounded the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "It was tragic (6)___ people drowned in (7)___ own houses as the storms raged." (8)___ 40cm (16") of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average for the whole of September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines on Saturday crossing the main northern Luzon island before heading out towards the South China sea.

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GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One (1)___ the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered (2)___ worst ever flooding with more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were displaced. A further 380,000 people ended up in makeshift shelters. Telephone and power services to the capital were cut. (3)___ government declared a "state of calamity" in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend (4)___ struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and (5)___ huge number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation camps were desperately short of food, water (6)___ clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed (7)___ calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the storm (8)___ an "extreme event."

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Many survivors had different tales to tell. One spent the night with families trapped on rooftops without food (1)___ water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as they were swept along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes (2)___ rescued more than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on rooftops. Mr Magallanes was swept away (3)___ the devastating floodwaters. The current was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped through the streets. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along with high tides, compounded the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "(4)___ was tragic that people drowned in their own houses as the storms raged." Some 40cm (16") (5)___ rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average (6)___ the whole of September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines (7)___ Saturday crossing the main northern Luzon island before heading out towards (8)___ South China sea.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article:

1	torrential	11	extreme
2	calamity	12	sacrificed
3	submerged	13	displaced
4	survivors	14	flooding
5	shelters	15	devastation
6	desperately	16	tropical
7	devastating	17	government
8	volunteers	18	debris
9	evacuation	19	extreme
10	donations	20	Philippines

Your score: Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

HOMEWORK

Presentation: Prepare a one minute presentation on “**Tropical storms**”. The teacher will ask you to present it in the next lesson. Students can judge the best presentation.

WRITING: In class:

Five-minute article: Write an article on “**Tropical storms**”. You have five minutes. The teacher will select some students to read out their work.

Countdown: Every minute the teacher may say, “You have xx minutes left”.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. T e. T f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. converge | come together |
| b. tropical | equatorial |
| c. devastation | ruin |
| d. worst | lowest |
| e. submerged | drowned |
| f. calamity | worst |
| g. volunteer | enlist |
| h. calm | cool |
| i. storm | monsoon |
| j. debris | remains |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter | devastation across the country recently |
| b. One of the worst places to be affected | was the capital Manila. |
| c. It suffered its worst ever flooding with more | than 80% of the city submerged. |
| d. Telephone and power services | to the capital were cut. |
| e. The government declared a "state of | calamity" in Manila and 25 provinces |
| f. survivors in makeshift evacuation camps | were desperately short of food |
| g. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited | the devastated areas. |
| h. At its worst people clung to debris as they | were swept along the Marikina river. |
| i. The current was incredibly strong as the | floodwaters ripped through the streets. |
| j. people drowned in their own | houses as the storms raged |

GAP FILL: Philippines calamity following tropical storm: Torrential rains in the Philippines caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana caused utter devastation across the country recently. One of the worst places to be affected was the capital Manila. It suffered its worst ever **flooding** with more than 80% of the city submerged. More than 246 people were killed. Another 450,000 people were **displaced**. A further 380,000 people ended up in **makeshift shelters**. Telephone and power services to the capital were cut. The government declared a "state of **calamity**" in Manila and 25 provinces on the weekend it struck. This allowed access to emergency funds. Soldiers, police, medics and a huge number of volunteers were involved in the effort to help rescue over 7,900 flood victims. Local government officials said survivors in makeshift evacuation **camps** were desperately short of food, water and clothes. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo visited the devastated areas. She appealed for calm and for donations to aid rescue efforts. She described the **storm** as an "extreme event." Many **survivors** had different tales to tell. One spent the night with families **trapped** on rooftops without food or water. Others were at work and were unable to go home. At its worst people clung to debris as they were **swept** along the Marikina river. One hero was Muelmar Magallanes who rescued more than 30 people. He sacrificed his own life to save others trapped on **rooftops**. Mr Magallanes was swept away by the devastating **floodwaters**. The current was incredibly strong as the floodwaters ripped through the streets. People thought they were going to die. Some officials said rubbish-choked drains and waterways, along with high **tides**, compounded the flooding. The Governor of Bulacan Province Joselito Mendoza said, "It was **tragic** that people drowned in their own houses as the storms **raged**." Some 40cm (16") of rain fell on Manila within 12 hours on Saturday, exceeding the 39cm average for the whole of September. Winds of 100kph hit the Philippines on Saturday crossing the main northern Luzon island before heading out towards the South China sea

LANGUAGE WORK:

- 1 - a 2 - c 3 - d 4 - b 5 - a 6 - a 7 - b 8 - d 9 - d 10 - c 11 - b 12 - c

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