

BCMS Article of the Week #2.5

2019-20

Southeast Louisiana gets hit by sudden tornadoes

Student _____

Class _____

Due Date: _____

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.

Step 1: Read (skim) the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

Step 2: Read the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

*** Your margin notes are part of your score for this assessment.

Notes:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article
- Connections you make (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world)
- **Questions** you have - show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- As needed - notes that differentiate between **fact vs opinion, cause vs effect**.
- Observations about the **writer's craft** (word choice)

Step 3: A final quick read noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Step 4: Answer questions on looseleaf. Remember to use complete sentences and to always include details (the evidence) to support your answer.

NEWSELA

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.10.17

Word Count 647

Level 810L



Eshon Trosclair holds her son, Camron Chapital, after a tornado tore through her home while they were inside on February 7, 2017, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The National Weather Service said at least three confirmed tornadoes touched down, including one inside the New Orleans city limits. Buildings were damaged and power lines went down. AP/Gerald Herbert

Margin Notes

(my thoughts, reactions and questions; Facts vs Opinions; Causes/Effects; Summary; Writer's Craft)

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Brittany Ross was about to sit down to eat. She was enjoying the smell of her aunt's white beans that were cooking on the stove. Then, without warning, the tornado hit. The swirling column of wind shook her trailer back and forth.

"The place started shaking, kind of twisting," she said. Ross was interviewed while standing among the wreckage at a small trailer park in eastern New Orleans. The tornado lifted her trailer off the ground and slammed it down, she said.

Ross, her aunt and two others crawled out of the wreckage, as shattered bits and pieces of rubble flew around them in the air. They were unhurt, but suddenly homeless.

Governor Declares State Of Disaster

The tornado that struck Ross' home was only one of several that struck southeastern Louisiana during an afternoon of stormy weather. The tornadoes destroyed homes and businesses and flipped cars and trucks. Thousands of homes were left without electricity after power lines were toppled.

Altogether about 40 people were hurt, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said. Fortunately, no one was killed.

Edwards flew above the hardest hit areas. He then quickly declared a state of disaster. The worst damage was in the same part of New Orleans that was so heavily flooded in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina.

Edwards said he was heartbroken to see some of the same people suffering again. He promised that the state would provide all the help it can as quickly as possible.

The governor said seven counties across southeastern Louisiana were hit by the tornadoes.

"It Was Just Barreling Down On Us"

The storm ripped apart homes, damaged a gas station, snapped tall power poles and flipped a food truck upside-down. It left shards of metal hanging from trees. A truck driver was trapped as power lines wrapped around his cab.

Artie Chaney said she and her granddaughter had just driven up to the house when the storm hit.

Hail was falling on their car and she was "looking out the side door and saw the clouds moving fast. I heard this sound. We looked up in the air and we could see debris in the distance and before we knew it, it was just barreling down on us," she said.

Margin Notes

(my thoughts, reactions and questions; Facts vs Opinions; Causes/Effects; Summary; Writer's Craft)

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"We ran in the house. The lights went out. We ran down the hallway to the middle bedroom and then we just heard glass shattering. We thought we weren't gonna make it. It seemed like it lasted a long time. It was a horrible experience. We were just so grateful to God that nobody was hurt."

"We went through all of Katrina, with no damage," Chaney said, sounding like she might begin to cry. "I didn't think I'd be starting over again."

Nearby Towns Were Also Hit

The Baton Rouge area also got hit. In Donaldsonville, three people were slightly hurt and several homes and buildings were damaged.

In Killian, several houses were destroyed and several others were damaged, Mayor Craig McGehee said. An elderly couple was hurt. One suffered a broken leg, while the other has a broken arm.

The couple was "blown completely across the street with cinderblocks flying," but somehow ended up not being badly hurt, McGehee said. "The good Lord was looking after them."

NASA Center Slightly Damaged

Steve Doering works at NASA's Michoud center in New Orleans. The center builds specialized equipment used for outer-space missions. Doering said the center's building was damaged during the storm. Fortunately, the equipment does not appear to have been harmed, he said.

Doering said the valuable equipment will have to be carefully protected while the building's roof and walls are repaired. Otherwise, future bad weather might end up causing damage.

The severe weather also brought heavy rain and hail to Mississippi and Alabama. Two Mississippi counties reported wind damage, but no one there was hurt.

Margin Notes

Article from Newsela

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions on **looseleaf**. Use **complete sentences**. **Always include relevant supporting information** from the text to support what you are saying.

1. List 5 words or phrases used by the author, or the witnesses, that communicate the idea that experiencing a tornado can be terrifying.
2. What does the author say in the section "Governor Declares State Of Disaster" to tell the reader **HOW** extensive the damage from the tornadoes was?
3. Why does the author mention Hurricane Katrina in the article?
4. What are **two** things we can learn about surviving extremes in nature from this article?