

Badai Topan

Larut malam Natal tahun 1974, topan Tracy melintasi kota Darwin. Isi kota itu porak poranda selama lebih dari 5 jam oleh angin yang menghancurkan dengan kecepatan 250 kilometer per jam. Enam puluh lima orang tewas, empat puluh sembilan di kota dan enam belas di laut.

Sebesar 90% dari bangunan kota hancur. Setiap pohon dan semak rontok daunnya. Burung dan serangga menghilang. Di dalam kota terjadi kelumpuhan air segar, sistem pembuangan limbah, dan listrik. Persediaan makanan juga menurun. Sebanyak 35.000 dari 43.000 jumlah penduduk diungsikan, sebagian besar pengungsian hanya dapat dilakukan melalui udara.

Larut – late

Questions:

1. What event is this passage describing?
2. When did this event occur and how long was its duration?
3. What was the human toll of this event?
4. List 5 consequences of this event to nature and man-made infrastructure.
5. Was this area rendered inhabitable by this event? How do you know this?
6. What is the significance of the figures of 35.000 and 43.000 quoted in the text? In other words, what do these figures indicate?
7. They say, "A picture is worth a thousand words." In no more than 50 words, describe the scene depicted by this picture.
8. Do you think this event had a big impact throughout Australia? Explain your answer.
9. What lessons do you think were learnt from this event to prevent such destruction in the future.

