

Hurricane Sandy

I. Reading Comprehension:



On October 29th, 2012, flood waters from Hurricane Sandy covered 75% of Liberty Island and almost all of Ellis Island, flooding basements of all buildings with the exception of the Statue and Monument. Winds and flooding from the storm destroyed most of the infrastructure on both islands including: electric, water, sewer, HVAC systems, phone systems, security systems and radio equipment. The visitor security screening facilities at Battery Park and Liberty State Park were destroyed. The main passenger pier and the work/emergency pier on Liberty Island were severely damaged, as were the perimeter walkway and railings around the island.

The Statue of Liberty is on Liberty Island, a 12 acre island located a mile south of lower Manhattan. Normally, the confines of the New York Harbour protect Liberty Island from extreme weather. However, when Hurricane Sandy hit, Liberty Island was in the direct path of a massive storm surge. Nearby in Battery Park, water rose 13.8 feet (4.2m). On Liberty Island, that meant nearly 75% of the island was under water according to Statue of Liberty Superintendent David LUCHSINGER.

Luckily, the Statue of Liberty itself did not receive any damage. The Statue's 126 years old iron framework designed by Alexandre-Gustave EIFFEL allowed for the Statue of Liberty to withstand the storm's intense winds. However, the Island's utilities, backup generator, and

power systems were destroyed. The passenger pier and auxiliary docks were severely damaged and brick pathways have been uprooted around the Island.

"We're going to get this done as soon as we possibly can because the Statue of Liberty is such an important icon for New York and America." Said Secretary of the Interior Ken SALAZAR on December 13th, 2012 after a tour of the Island. Salazar also estimated that repairs to both Ellis Island and Liberty Island may be as much as 59\$ million.

Adapted from (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Sandy)

1. Answer these questions according to the text.

- a. What caused the devastating flooding in New York area?
- b. Where is the Statue of Liberty exactly located?
- c. Why was the Statue of Liberty unharmed?
- d. Study this sentence:

"...the Statue of Liberty is such an important icon for New York and America..."

Explain: *) What an icon is?

*) Why it is important for New York and America?

2. Are these statements "Right" or "Wrong"? Justify by quoting the text.

- a. Both Liberty Island and Ellis Island were largely submerged.
- b. The waterfront of Liberty Island was not damaged.
- c. According to the Secretary of Interior Ken SALAZAR, it is still too soon to know how much the repairs to Liberty and Ellis Islands would cost.
- d. Visitors to the Statue of Liberty undergo security screening.

3. What do the following words refer to?

a. HVAC

- High Voltage Alternating Current.
- Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning.

b. railings

- A structure blocking an area from access.
- A structure designed to provide support and protection.
- Train rails.

c. pier

- A seawall that protects coastal areas from erosion.
- A structure used for getting on and off boats.

4. Join these sentences using the words in brackets.

- a. The statue was presented to the U.S by the French people in the 19th century. It was designed by BARTHOLDI. It was built on a metal frame by Gustav EIFFEL. (which...and)
- b. The statue was designed by BARTHOLDI. It was built on a metal frame by EIFFEL. (though)
- c. The site was an island at the entrance of New York Harbour. A pedestal was built. (where)
- d. Liberty Island has no electrical power. Ellis Island has no electrical power. (neither...nor)
- e. People cannot heat their homes. They cannot cool their homes. (neither...nor)

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