

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Disasters - Bad Stars

earthquake	tornado	hurricane	wildfire
drought	flood	volcanic eruption	

Today, we know why natural *disasters* occur. In the past, people didn't know why a volcano erupted. They didn't understand why floods happened. Many people believed the gods were responsible. Some believed Poseidon caused earthquakes. He was the god of the ocean.

Other people thought the stars influenced our lives. When the stars were in a bad position, *catastrophes* occurred. Astrologers were people who studied the stars. They wanted to be able to foretell the future. Astrology is still popular today. For example, many people know what sign they were born under.

People still study the stars. These scientists are called astronomers. Many astronomers dream of being an astronaut. Astronauts conduct experiments to help scientists understand nature. By understanding nature, we hope to avoid future *calamities*.

1. Two of the disasters are similar. Which two are similar? Why do you think so?

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2. Two disasters are complete opposites of each other. Which two are opposites? Why do you think so?

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3. Which three words in the paragraphs are synonyms?

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# Aster (Astro) - Star

asterisk	asteroid	asterozoa	astrologer
astrology	astronaut	astronomer	astronomical
astronomy	astrophile	catastrophe	disaster

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Large rock orbiting a star
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Study of stars to predict the future
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Person who studies the stars to predict the future
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Study of stars to understand the universe
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Person who studies stars to understand the universe
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Members of the starfish family of animals
7. \_\_\_\_\_ and 8. \_\_\_\_\_ Sudden event that causes great damage
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Star-shaped symbol used in writing and printing
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Person who loves stars
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Extremely large, such as distance between stars
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Person who travels in space (to the stars)

“Naut” is a root word for “sailor.” Therefore, an *astronaut* is a “star sailor. Russian *astronauts* are called *cosmonauts*. The root word “cosmos” means “space,” making a *cosmonaut* a “space sailor.” Which is better? Explain.

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## Aster (Astro) - Star

Thousands of years ago, humanity looked to the stars. Some cultures made wishes upon stars. Others believed they were the souls of the dead. Some cultures studied the stars to predict the future. This was called *astrology* and the people who studied the stars for these reasons were called *astrologers*. When *disasters*, or *catastrophes*, occurred, people sometimes it was because the stars were in a bad position.

Other studied the stars for other reasons. For example, sailors would use an *astrolabe* to navigate. *Astronomers* would study the stars to learn more about the world. *Astronomers* are probably some of the biggest *astrophiles* since they love the stars enough to make it their career. Today, many children dream of traveling to the stars as an *astronaut*. To reach even the nearest stars we will need to travel *astronomical* distances. The *asteroid* belts are much closer so we will probably explore them much sooner.

Even objects not directly related to the stars share this root. Take the *asterisk* which received its name because it was shaped like a star. Another example would be that all starfish belong to the *asterozoa* family. There is even a flower called an *aster*. Please feel free to share any other “aster” or “astro” words you know.

asterisk: Star-shaped symbol *	asteroid : large rock orbiting a star	asterozoa: members of the starfish family of animals
astrologer: person who studies the stars to predict the future	astrology: study of stars to predict the future	astronaut: person who travels in space (to the stars)
astronomer: person who studies stars to understand the universe	astronomical: extremely large, such as distance between stars	astronomy: study of stars to understand the universe
astrophile: person who loves stars	catastrophe: sudden event that causes great damage	disaster: sudden event that causes great damage