One day in 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona, a woman was getting in her car, which was parked in her driveway. Suddenly, her husband ran out of the house. He was waving his arms and yelling.

Without another word, the woman ran back in her house and shut the front door. The husband and wife stood at their front window. A few minutes later, the sky began to darken. And then, sand began to swirl around the house. Soon, sand and dust were everywhere, blowing all around the house. This lasted for almost an hour.

The woman and her husband were watching an especially violent type of dust storm. A dust storm is a kind of storm where wind picks up clouds of sand and dust from the desert and blows them into the air. Phoenix is built in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. It gets several dust storms every year. Most of the dust storms are very small, but some of them are very big. A large, thick dust storm hit Phoenix in 2011. It was more than a mile tall and 50 miles wide. Severe dust storms can last for up to three hours.

These dust storms happen in other areas too. Countries in the northern part of Africa can get very violent dust storms that last a long time. If this type of dust storm strikes near a farm, it can cover the farm with dust and sand. This means the farmer can no longer plant crops.
Often the farm must be abandoned.

Dust storms can be very dangerous. When a dust storm hits, it makes it difficult to see. If you are outside during a dust storm, you may not be able to see more than a few inches in front of you. When a dust storm is approaching Phoenix, the local weather stations start broadcasting warnings for people to get off the street. People are told to park their cars, so they don't crash. Airplanes are not allowed to take off from or land at the Phoenix airport because the pilots cannot see well.

The dust in a dust storm can also make people sick. Some of the dust can carry pesticides and toxins. People go inside during a dust storm so that they do not inhale the dust. People with pets, like dogs and cats and horses, also bring their animals inside so that they do not get sick.

Weather forecasters are always trying to get better at predicting when a dust storm will happen. The sooner they know a dust storm is coming, the sooner they can warn people about it. The sooner people are warned about a dust storm, the more lives will be saved. This is because more people will be able to get to safety before the dust storm strikes.

Paul Fisher and his family have lived in Arizona for more than 20 years. He can remember seeing many intense dust storms during that time. One time, he was out walking his dog, Jimbo, shortly after he had moved to Phoenix. As he was walking, he looked out at the desert and saw what looked like a big, dark wall. He stared at it for a few minutes. Suddenly, he realized what he was looking at. He grabbed Jimbo and ran back to the house. He was just able to get inside before the storm hit.

"Once you're in a [violent dust storm], you never forget it," he said. "It's like a thunderstorm, but instead of rain, all you can see is sand."
1. What happens during a dust storm?
   A. heavy rains mix with dust and dirt, creating large rivers of mud
   B. wind picks up clouds of sand and dust from the desert and blows them into the air
   C. wind picks up clouds of sand and dust from the desert and forms a tornado
   D. wind blows dust and dirt around high in the sky and away from the ground

2. The author lists different things people do to protect themselves during a dust storm. What is one of these things?
   A. People get into their cars and drive away.
   B. People stay outdoors to protect their animals.
   C. People stay indoors with their animals.
   D. People fly away in airplanes.

3. The text states that dust storms can be very dangerous. What evidence from the text best supports this statement?
   A. "Soon, sand and dust were everywhere, blowing all around the house."
   B. "Weather forecasters are always trying to get better at predicting when a dust storm will happen."
   C. "Severe dust storms can last for up to three hours."
   D. "The dust in a dust storm can also make people sick."

4. Paul Fisher was out walking his dog Jimbo in Arizona when he saw an intense dust storm approaching. The passage says that he grabbed Jimbo, ran back to the house, and was able to get inside just before the storm hit. How can Paul's actions best be described?
   A. unusual
   B. frightening
   C. reasonable
   D. irrational
5. What is the main idea of this text?

A. Violent dust storms can be very dangerous and harmful to humans and animals.
B. Countries in the northern part of Africa can get very violent dust storms that last a long time.
C. Local weather stations start broadcasting warnings for people to get off the street when a dust storm approaches the area.
D. People in Phoenix, Arizona, know what to do when an intense dust storm approaches.

6. Read the following sentences: "Weather forecasters are always trying to get better at predicting when a dust storm will happen. The sooner they know a dust storm is coming, the sooner they can warn people about it."

As used in the passage, what does the word "predicting" mean?

A. saying that an event has happened
B. saying that an event will happen before it happens
C. saying that an event will never happen
D. saying that an event has never happened

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

During a dust storm, it is important to take precautions, __________ staying indoors.

A. such as
B. before
C. finally
D. although
8. What do local weather stations in Phoenix do when a dust storm is approaching the city?

9. Why is it important for forecasters to improve their ability to predict dust storms?

10. How might people be affected if forecasters did not have the ability to predict dust storms? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
1. What happens during a dust storm?

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   **B. wind picks up clouds of sand and dust from the desert and blows them into the air**
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During a dust storm, it is important to take precautions, __________ staying indoors.

A. such as
B. before
C. finally
D. although

8. What do local weather stations in Phoenix do when a dust storm is approaching the city?

The local weather stations start broadcasting warnings for people to get off the street. Students may also mention that people are told to park their cars and airplanes are prevented from taking off or landing.
9. Why is it important for forecasters to improve their ability to predict dust storms?

If forecasters are better able to predict dust storms, they can warn people sooner when one is on its way. This warning will allow people to get to safety and it can save lives.

10. How might people be affected if forecasters did not have the ability to predict dust storms? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students may explain that people would have to rely on local weather station's warnings and their own observations to tell when a dust storm is approaching. Without a sufficient warning, they may not be able to get to safety in time. This might result in their inhaling the dust and becoming sick. People may also be stuck in cars when dust storms strike, possibly resulting in more car accidents. Planes may be stuck in flight, which could lead to plane crashes.