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Preparing for the Worst

Imagine a bleak world in the not-so-distant future. The planet's oil supply has dwindled to a trickle, and the prices of goods and services have sharply risen with increased fuel costs, all of which has pushed the economies of many countries to the crashing point. The cities have become filled with hungry and desperate people, some of whom have turned into violent, marauding bands. For most people, this scenario is merely science fiction. However, an increasing number firmly believe that this future is inevitable. What's more, the precursors to this dark time could be witnessed within the next few years.

The problem comes down to oil, the production of which could soon peak. After this high point, there will simply be less and less oil available, which poses all sorts of difficulties because modern society has been built on this limited energy source. These survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst, moving to rural areas, learning to become self-sufficient, and in some cases, even stock-piling guns to defend against desperate mobs.

It's important to note that many of these people believe that nothing can save the already imperiled modern world. So quite a few have begun their preparations in secret, worried about a time when the unprepared abandon the cities and become refugees in search of food and shelter.

On the brighter side, many of these survivalists see a day when neighbors band together and become close-knit communities once more. In addition, many expect their children and grandchildren to return to help work the land, which means the family unit will once more play an integral role in people's lives.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.
WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1: Define: What does "survivalist" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2: Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "survivalists" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

3: Title: Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Preparing for the Worst"

4: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

   a. The future will be dark and difficult because of today's problems.
   b. The future will be dark and difficult because of today's problems within the next five years.
   c. The economies of many countries will crash if we run out of oil.
   d. If people think modern society will end soon, then they are absolutely crazy!
   e. After today's lesson, I'm going to prepare for the end of the world!

5: Rank It!: Which of the following poses the greatest problem for humankind in the future? Rank the problems in order, from most serious to least serious. Remember to support your decisions.

   a. fresh water
   b. less and less oil
   c. global warming
   d. over population
   e. nuclear war
VOCA B U L A RY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. bleak</th>
<th>b. dwindle</th>
<th>c. trickle</th>
<th>d. marauding</th>
<th>e. inevitable</th>
<th>f. precursor</th>
<th>g. mob</th>
<th>h. imperil</th>
<th>i. abandon</th>
<th>j. integral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>q. diminish</td>
<td>r. unavoidable</td>
<td>s. gloomy</td>
<td>t. leave</td>
<td>u. thieving</td>
<td>v. endanger</td>
<td>w. omen</td>
<td>x. essential</td>
<td>y. drip</td>
<td>z. crowd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2: Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dwindled</th>
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<th>abandon</th>
<th>precursor</th>
<th>imperiled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>integral</td>
<td>marauding</td>
<td>mobs</td>
<td>bleak</td>
<td>trickle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Imagine a (             ) world in the not-so-distant future.
b. The planet's oil supply has (             ).
c. Because the oil supply is a (             ), the prices of goods and services have sharply risen.
d. The cities have become filled with violent, (             ) bands.
e. An increasing number firmly believe that this future is (             ).
f. What's more, the (             ) to this dark time could be witnessed within the next few years.
g. These survivalists have begun to prepare, stock-piling guns to defend against (             ).
h. Many of these people believe that nothing can save the already (             ) modern world.
i. They are worried about the unprepared (             ) the cities in search of food and shelter.
j. The family unit will once more play an (             ) role in people's lives.

3: Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

| a. bleak | b. dwindle | c. trickle | d. marauding | e. inevitable | f. precursor | g. mob | h. imperil | i. abandon | j. integral |

Heads Up English - 3
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## WORD RECOGNITION

### 1: Word Search: Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

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<td>marauding</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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I Q G P Q R E I E I R T R L
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G N I D A U R A M H J L X J S
W S I B D P R E C U R S O R S
L M V I M R H Y U C G P G Q B
F T N O M N A J Q V H C U H E
X G G P P S R X G J H W D R Z
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### 2: Target Word Pool: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

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ablution         imperating dwindling cursor7
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1: **Word Association**: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2: **Brainstorm Questions**: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3: **True or False?**: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

   - According to the article, prices will rise when the oil supply drops. T / F
   - The survivalists believe the future predicted in the article will occur sooner rather than later. T / F
   - The survivalists are worried that desperate people will kill and eat one another. T / F
   - The survivalists believe that the dark future can be avoided. T / F
   - Family and neighbors could become more important in people's lives in the future. T / F

4: **Questions**: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

   - According to the article, what will happen when the oil supply drops?
   - When do the survivalists believe the dark future will begin?
   - How have the survivalists begun to prepare?
   - Why have the survivalists begun to prepare in secret?
   - What does the article mention about neighbors and families?

5: **Vocabulary**: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

   - bleak
   - dwindled
   - trickle
   - marauding
   - inevitable
   - precursors
   - imperiled
   - mobs
   - imperiled
   - abandon
   - integral

6: **Fragments**: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

   - Imagine a bleak...
   - The cities have become filled with hungry and desperate people, some of...
   - The problem comes down to oil...
   - It's important to note that many of these people believe that...
   - On the brighter side, many of these survivalists see a day when...
post-COMPREHENSION

1: Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

   a. Did you like this article?
   b. What was your general impression after reading this article?
   c. What do you think life will be like in a few years? How different will it be to life today? Please explain.
   d. Do you think the end of civilization is near? Please explain.
   e. How will the world be different for our children and our children’s children? Will life be easier or harder?
   f. How important will the family unit and the local community be in the future? Why do you think so?
   g. What disaster, world event, or crisis would need to happen for you to become a survivalist?
   h. If modern civilization were to suddenly crash, would you be able to survive? Why/not?
   i. How worried are you about the world’s oil supply? Are we too dependent on it? Please explain.
   j. Imagine it’s the end of the world. How far would you go to protect yourself and your family?

5: Discuss: It’s the end of the world, and we need to rebuild civilization. Unfortunately, only a limited number of people can be saved! First, write down your strengths and weaknesses which might be helpful/harmful. Next, get into groups of four, and present the pluses and minuses. After everyone has presented their information, discuss/debate which three of the four students should help rebuild society.

   Pluses:  Minuses:

6: Google Search: Type "survivalists" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.
Preparing for the Worst

Imagine a bleak world in the not-so-distant future. The planet's oil supply has dwindled to a trickle, and the prices of goods and services have sharply risen with increased fuel costs, all of which has pushed the economies of many countries to the crashing point. The cities have become filled with hungry and desperate people, some of whom have turned into violent, marauding bands. For most people, this scenario is merely science fiction. However, an increasing number firmly believe that this future is inevitable. What's more, the precursors to this dark time could be witnessed within the next few years.

The problem comes down to oil, the production of which could soon peak. After this high point, there will simply be less and less oil available, which poses all sorts of difficulties because modern society has been built on this limited energy source. These survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst, moving to rural areas, learning to become self-sufficient, and in some cases, even stock-piling guns to defend against desperate mobs.

It's important to note that many of these people believe that nothing can save the already imperiled modern world. So quite a few have begun their preparations in secret, worried about a time when the unprepared abandon the cities and become refugees in search of food and shelter.

On the brighter side, many of these survivalists see a day when neighbors band together and become close-knit communities once more. In addition, many expect their children and grandchildren to return to help work the land, which means the family unit will once more play an integral role in people's lives.

Notes:
STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>poses</th>
<th>dwindled</th>
<th>close</th>
<th>precursors</th>
<th>imperiled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inevitable</td>
<td>mobs</td>
<td>marauding</td>
<td>fiction</td>
<td>bleak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trickle</td>
<td>abandon</td>
<td>energy</td>
<td>integral</td>
<td>sufficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparing for the Worst

Imagine a (a. _______________) world in the not-so-distant future. The planet’s oil supply has (b. _______________) to a (c. _______________), and the prices of goods and services have sharply risen with increased fuel costs, all of which has pushed the economies of many countries to the crashing point. The cities have become filled with hungry and desperate people, some of whom have turned into violent, (d. _______________) bands. For most people, this scenario is merely science (e. _______________). However, an increasing number firmly believe that this future is (f. _______________). What’s more, the (g. _______________) to this dark time could be witnessed within the next few years.

The problem comes down to oil, the production of which could soon peak. After this high point, there will simply be less and less oil available, which (h. _______________) all sorts of difficulties because modern society has been built on this limited (i. _______________) source. These survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst, moving to rural areas, learning to become self-(j. _______________), and in some cases, even stock-piling guns to defend against desperate (k. _______________).

It's important to note that many of these people believe that nothing can save the already (l. _______________) modern world. So quite a few have begun their preparations in secret, worried about a time when the unprepared (m. _______________) the cities and become refugees in search of food and shelter.

On the brighter side, many of these survivalists see a day when neighbors band together and become (n. _______________)-knit communities once more. In addition, many expect their children and grandchildren to return to help work the land, which means the family unit will once more play an (o. _______________) role in people's lives.
STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

Preparing for the Worst

Imagine a bleak world in the not-so-distant future. The planet's oil supply has dwindled to a trickle,
a) ________________________________, all of which has pushed the economies of many countries to the crashing point. The cities have become filled with hungry and desperate people, some of whom have turned into violent, marauding bands. For most people, this scenario is merely science fiction. However, an increasing number firmly believe that this future is inevitable. What’s more, b) ________________________________.

The problem comes down to oil, the production of which could soon peak. After this high point, there will simply be less and less oil available, c) ________________________________. These survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst, moving to rural areas, learning to become self-sufficient, and in some cases, even stock-piling guns to defend against desperate mobs.

d) ________________________________. So quite a few have begun their preparations in secret, worried about a time when the unprepared abandon the cities and become refugees in search of food and shelter.

On the brighter side, many of these survivalists see a day when neighbors band together and become close-knit communities once more. In addition, e) ________________________________, which means the family unit will once more play an integral role in people’s lives.
Preparing for the Worst
Advanced

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a. s</th>
<th>b. q</th>
<th>c. y</th>
<th>d. u</th>
<th>e. r</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>g.</td>
<td>h.</td>
<td>i.</td>
<td>j.</td>
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2. Fill in the Blanks:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
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<td>g. mobs</td>
<td>h. imperiled</td>
<td>i. abandon</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pre-or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a. T</th>
<th>b. T</th>
<th>c. F</th>
<th>d. F</th>
<th>e. T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2. Fragments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a. world in the not-so-distant future.</th>
<th>b. whom have turned into violent, marauding bands.</th>
<th>c. the production of which could soon peak.</th>
<th>d. nothing can save the already imperiled modern world.</th>
<th>e. neighbors band together and become close-knit communities once more</th>
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Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

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2. Extended Listening

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a. and the prices of goods and services have sharply risen with increased fuel costs</th>
<th>b. the precursors to this dark time could be witnessed within the next few years</th>
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<th>d. It's important to note that many of these people believe that nothing can save the already imperiled modern world</th>
<th>e. many expect their children and grandchildren to return to help work the land</th>
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