Preparing for the Worst

Imagine a dark future that isn't too far away. There isn't much oil. The prices of goods and services have increased because of the cost of fuel. As a result, the economies of many countries have nearly crashed. Lastly, people who live in cities have become hungry and desperate. Some are even violent. Although most people believe is only science fiction, more and more people believe this is the fate of our civilization. In addition, many believe these problems will begin within the next few years.

The problem is oil, on which modern society has been built. However, the supply may soon begin to decrease, so survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst. They have moved to rural areas, learned to become self-sufficient, and have acquired guns to defend themselves.

Some of these survivalists believe that nothing can save the modern world, and so they prepare for the worst in secret. They will help no one. However, on the brighter side, a good number of survivalists also believe survivors will develop close communities in the future. The family unit will also have an important role in people's lives again.

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 words and ideas for "survivalists" for two minutes. Next, talk about the words and ideas for five minutes.

3: Title: Today's article is: "Preparing for the Worst." What will you read about?

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 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 crazy!
   e. After today's lesson, I'm going to prepare for the end of the world!
VOCABULARY

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. desperate</th>
<th>u. present-day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. fate</td>
<td>v. hopeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. modern</td>
<td>w. receive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. self-sufficient</td>
<td>x. independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. acquire</td>
<td>y. make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. develop</td>
<td>z. future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>modern</th>
<th>develop</th>
<th>self-sufficient</th>
<th>fate</th>
<th>acquired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. People who live in cities have become hungry and (desperate).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. More and more people believe this is the (fate) of our civilization.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The problem is oil, on which (modern) society has been built.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Survivalists have learned to become (self-sufficient).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Survivalists have (acquire) guns to defend themselves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Survivalists also believe survivors will (develop) close communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3: Define: Look in your dictionary for each word. Write the definition, correctly pronounce the word, and give an example sentence to the class.

| a. desperate: |
| b. fate: |
| c. modern: |
| d. self-sufficient: |
| e. acquire: |
| f. develop: |
WORD RECOGNITION

These activities are optional. They reinforce vocabulary and increase reading speed.

1: Word Search: Find only the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how long it takes to find all the words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>modern</th>
<th>develop</th>
<th>fate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>desperate</td>
<td>self-sufficient</td>
<td>acquired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

```
F A M Z R H M D E R O Y V H I
F Y W I W O N T E E W J D Y F
V L F I D M E B V V T T N C L
H I E E Z R H I N K E A A K E
U I R S A G X Y C P I L F Q T
P N V P T P B W K S F X O C A
U C S M Y N W I P L R X A P R
A E E C K U E F X F P I Q H E
D E T A C Q U I R E D B U W P
J U G M E J Q F C R C X I G S
E X W N B M X G T I E R R S E
T N E I C I F F U S F L E S D
H W A R Q I H M U Q Q F D W M
B W V X A H S B K Y Q Q U X D
N R A D O M E A A A D V Y S O
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2: Target Word Pool: Find only the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how long it takes to find all the words.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>fate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>desperate</td>
<td>self-sufficient</td>
<td>acquired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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modern
modernity
modest
modem
fates
destitute
acquisition
modest
self-sufficient
desperation
develops

develop
self-sufficiently
acquired
insufficient
modem
fated
desperately

fate
self-sufficiency
moderation
fat
desperate
acquired
modems

desperate
self-sufficient
acquired
insufficient
modem
fated
desperately
acquired
```
Preparing for the Worst
Lower-Intermediate

Select one or more activity to direct students before the article is read, or to check understanding after the article is read.

1: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer a partner the questions. He shouldn't look at the article when he answers.

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

   a. According to the article, prices will rise when the oil supply decreases. T/F
   b. The survivalists believe the dark future will happen sooner rather than later. T/F
   c. The survivalists are worried that desperate people will kill and eat one another. T/F
   d. The survivalists believe that the dark future can be avoided. T/F
   e. Family and neighbors could become more important in the future. T/F

3: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

   a. According to the article, what will happen when the oil supply decreases?
   b. When do the survivalists believe the dark future will begin?
   c. How have the survivalists begun to prepare?
   d. Why have the survivalists begun to prepare in secret?
   e. What does the article mention about neighbors and families?

4: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence.

   a. The prices of goods and services have increased because...
   b. In addition, many believe these problems will begin...
   c. The problem is oil, on which...
   d. The family unit will also have an important...
post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to discuss the contents of the article.

1: Vocabulary: Circle any other unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand these words. Write an example sentence for each one.

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

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 and ask more questions with your partner.
   a. Did you like this article? Why/not?
   b. What do you think life will be like in a few years? How different will life be?
   c. Do you think the end of civilization is near? Please explain.
   d. What disaster or crisis would need to happen for you to become a survivalist?
   e. If modern civilization were to suddenly crash, would you be able to survive?
   f. Imagine it's the end of the world. What would you do to protect yourself / 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pluses:</th>
<th>Minuses:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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6: Google Search: Type "survivalists" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.
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Some of these survivalists believe that nothing can save the modern world, and so they prepare for the worst in secret. They will help no one. However, on the brighter side, a good number of survivalists also believe survivors will develop close communities in the future. The family unit will also have an important role in people's lives again.

Notes:
STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>desperate</th>
<th>acquired</th>
<th>modern</th>
<th>role</th>
<th>rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>crashed</td>
<td>secret</td>
<td>develop</td>
<td>fate</td>
<td>self-sufficient</td>
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Preparing for the Worst

Imagine a dark future that isn't too far away. There isn't much oil. The prices of goods and services have increased because of the cost of fuel. As a result, the economies of many countries have nearly (a. ________________). Lastly, people who live in cities have become hungry and (b. ________________). Some are even violent. Although most people believe is only science fiction, more and more people believe this is the (c. ________________) of our civilization. In addition, many believe these problems will begin within the next few years.

The problem is oil, on which (d. ________________) society has been built. However, the supply may soon begin to decrease, so survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst. They have moved to (e. ________________) areas, learned to become (f. ________________), and have (g. ________________) guns to defend themselves.

Some of these survivalists believe that nothing can save the modern world, and so they prepare for the worst in (h. ________________). They will help no one. However, on the brighter side, a good number of survivalists also believe survivors will (i. ________________) close communities in the future. The family unit will also have an important (j. ________________) in people's lives again.
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 dark future that isn't too far away. There isn't much oil. The prices of goods and services have increased because of the cost of fuel. As a result, the economies of many countries have nearly crashed. Lastly, people who live in cities have become hungry and desperate. Some are even violent. a) ____________________________, more and more people believe this is the fate of our civilization. In addition, many believe these problems will begin within the next few years.

The problem is oil, on which modern society has been built. However, b) ____________________________, so survivalists have begun to prepare for the worst. They have moved to rural areas, learned to become self-sufficient, and have acquired guns to defend themselves.

Some of these survivalists believe that nothing can save the modern world, and so they prepare for the worst in secret. They will help no one. However, on the brighter side, c) ____________________________, The family unit will also have an important role in people's lives again.

Sentence #1:

Sentence #2:

Sentence #3:
### ANSWER KEY

#### Vocabulary

**1: Vocabulary Match:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. v</th>
<th>b. z</th>
<th>c. u</th>
<th>d. x</th>
<th>e. w</th>
<th>f. y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**2: Fill in the Blanks:**

<table>
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<th>b. fate</th>
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#### pre- or post-Comprehension

**1. True or False:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>a. the cost of fuel.</th>
<th>b. within the next few years.</th>
<th>c. modern society has been built.</th>
<th>d. role in people's lives again.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Student Handout

**1: Fill in the Blanks:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>a. crashed</th>
<th>b. desperate</th>
<th>c. fate</th>
<th>d. modern</th>
<th>e. rural</th>
<th>f. self-sufficient</th>
<th>g. acquired</th>
<th>h. secret</th>
<th>i. develop</th>
<th>j. role</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**2: Extended Listening:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. Although most people believe is only science fiction</th>
<th>b. the supply may soon begin to decrease</th>
<th>c. a good number of survivalists also believe survivors will develop close communities in the future</th>
</tr>
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