**Reading Article of the Week
*Sandy’s “Mammoth” Wake: 46 Dead, Millions Without Power (1350L)***

**Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES**

**Read** the following article carefully and **make notes in the margin** as you read.

Your notes should include:

* Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
* Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
* Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
* Observations about how the **writer’s strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment.

Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

**Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Sandy’s “Mammoth” Wake: 46 Dead, Millions Without Power

As New York City and New Jersey slowly began digging out Tuesday, the scale of the devastation of Superstorm Sandy became heartbreakingly apparent, leaving 46 people dead and authorities with an enormous undertaking to restore power and transit for millions of others. "That recovery is a mammoth job," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday evening, assessing the scope of a once-in-a-generation hurricane that swept homes into the ocean, flooded large swaths of coastal areas, and left millions of people without power and crippled transportation.

President Barack Obama declared major disasters in New York City, New Jersey and Connecticut, promising that the federal government would do all it could to help local authorities cope with damage. The president was scheduled to visit damaged areas in New Jersey on Wednesday, the White House said.

Details of the devastation became clearer late Tuesday after authorities made their way through severely damaged areas across 20 states stretching from New England to Tennessee:

* By 8:30 p.m. ET, NBC News confirmed that 46 people had been killed in the U.S., 23 of them in New York — including 18 in New York City. Six people had been killed in New Jersey; five in Pennsylvania; four in Connecticut; two apiece in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia; and one each in North Carolina and Puerto Rico. Before it made its way north, Sandy was blamed for 68 other deaths in the Caribbean.
* More than 6 million homes and businesses were without electricity, about half of them in New York and New Jersey. That number represents individual structures, including large businesses, meaning the number of people without light, heat or refrigeration is likely much higher. NBC News meteorologist Bill Karins said cleanup and restoration of power could continue "right up through Election Day."
* A massive fire [destroyed at least 100 homes](http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/30/14797289-50-homes-destroyed-as-six-alarm-blaze-rips-through-queens?lite) in Breezy Point, a seaside community in Queens, N.Y. Firefighters had difficulty reaching the blaze because of the severe weather. The cause of the fire wasn't immediately known.
* Ten subway tunnels under the East River in New York were flooded, leading the Metropolitan Transit Authority to declare: "The New York City subway system is 108 years old, but it has never faced a disaster as devastating as what we experienced last night." Subway service was unlikely to resume for four to five days, Bloomberg said.
* PATH train service between Manhattan and New Jersey is likely to be suspended for seven-10 days, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said.
* At least [four towns in north New Jersey](http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/30/14801548-northern-new-jersey-towns-submerged-after-sandy-surge-breaks-levee?lite) were submerged by up to 6 feet of water after a levee broke.
* New York University Medical Center [evacuated 215 patients](http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/30/14805501-hundreds-evacuated-after-power-fails-at-ny-hospital?lite) to other hospitals because its backup generator was out. Coney Island Hospital was also being evacuated Tuesday, Bloomberg said.
* The storm surge destroyed homes, boats and other property in beach communities like Long Beach Island, N.J., and Fire Island, N.Y. Sand several blocks inland remained after the water receded.
* [More than 18,000 flights have been canceled](http://www.nbcnews.com/travel/stranded-sandy-air-travelers-eager-change-status-1C6761186) so far, and New York City's airports remained closed Tuesday. Amtrak canceled all of its Northeast Corridor rail service, in addition to some other lines.
* [A half-dozen nuclear power plants](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/49611860/ns/weather/t/sandy-curtails-nuclear-plants-oldest-under-alert/) were shut down or otherwise affected, while the nation's oldest facility declared a rare "alert" after the record storm surge pushed flood waters high enough to endanger a key cooling system.

It remained impossible to put a dollar value on Sandy's destruction. [Insured losses alone](http://economywatch.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/30/14807087-sandys-economic-hit-may-be-softened-by-cleanup-rebuild-and-insurance-payments#.UJBRFbs3RuI.mailto) will run from $7 billion to $15 billion, according to an estimate published late Tuesday by AIR Worldwide, a catastrophe modeling firm. "I think the losses will be almost incalculable," Christie said on NBC's TODAY show.

About 90,000 customers were without power Tuesday in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Energy Ministry said. At least one death was reported in Toronto after a woman in her 50s was hit in the head by a sign Monday night, NBC News Channel reported.

Sandy hit the mountains of West Virginia and North Carolina with full-blown blizzards, part of a storm-generated snow system stretching as far west as Kentucky and Ohio, where several inches of snow fell in Champaign County.

Officials said the [14 to 16 inches](http://www.wbir.com/rss/article/239989/2/Biggest-October-snowfall-on-record-in-Newfound-Gap-and-still-snowing-) that blanketed Newfound Gap, on the Tennessee-North Carolina line, was believed to be biggest October snowfall on record. Parts of eastern Virginia were [under a blizzard warning](http://www.wboy.com/story/19942893/hurricane-brings-havoc-to-west-virginia) through Wednesday morning, with snowfall at 1 to 2 inches an hour expected.

***Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:***

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**Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases**

1. *Refer to the first bullet in the list. What does E.T. mean?*
2. *How many homes and businesses in the New York/New Jersey area were without power as of Tuesday evening? (Hint: math required.)*
3. *How many states, in total, are mentioned as having damage from Sandy?*
4. *How many flights had been cancelled as of Tuesday evening?*
5. *Name three areas outside the US that have been hit by Sandy.*
6. *Who, precisely, declared the New York/New Jersey area a disaster area?*

*7/8.RL.1*

***2.* Answer each question in one or more complete sentences.**

*It was reported that there was a massive fire in the Breezy Point area, destroying 100 homes. Why would a fire of this strength seem* ***ironic*** *with this particular storm?*

*In a complete sentence, name six states affected by Sandy.*

*What does it mean when one governor stated, “I think the losses will be almost incalculable"*?

*7/8.RL.2/4 & 7/8.L.4*

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**3.**  *This particular storm is being called a “Superstorm” of “mammoth” size. List at least 6 pieces of evidence from this article that help to explain why these two terms are being used to refer to Sandy. You may use a bulleted list.*

*7/8.RL.4/5*

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**4.** *NBC News meteorologist Bill Karins said cleanup and restoration of power could continue "right up through Election Day." What possible concerns can be associated with a storm of this magnitude hitting an area of the United States so close to a presidential election?*

*7/8.RL.8*