New Orleans

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever been to New Orleans, Louisiana?

2. Do you know what New Orleans is famous for?

3. Do you know what Mardi Gras is?

4. What is a nickname?
   Do you know the nickname for New Orleans?

5. What do you know about Hurricane Katrina?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

_____	1. unique	a)	having the possibility of danger
_____	2. wind (*verb*)	b)	the title of a member of a noble or royal family
_____	3. architecture	c)	to save from danger
_____	4. destination	d)	to think of, to plan, to create
_____	5. duke	e)	to move in a curving or twisting way
_____	6. port	f)	a terrible situation
_____	7. slave	g)	the only one of its kind, very special, not like others
_____	8. drainage	h)	a harbour, a place where ships dock
_____	9. devise	i)	an overflow of water
_____	10. at risk	j)	the design and style of buildings
_____	11. flood	k)	to move people away from a place of danger
_____	12. evacuate	l)	a person who is owned by someone and forced to work
_____	13. rescue	m)	a place a person is going to go
_____	14. disaster	n)	emptying water or making dry

Reading

1. New Orleans has often been called the most **unique** city in the United States.

2. It is one of the oldest cities, and it is located in the state of Louisiana. The Mississippi River **winds** around and through it.

3. New Orleans is famous for its food, its **architecture**, its celebrations, and especially its music. It is said to be the birthplace of jazz. For years, it has been a popular **destination** for tourists from around the world, particularly during Mardi Gras.

4. New Orleans was named after Philippe II, **duke** of Orleans, regent of France. Because the city was on the Mississippi River, it became an important **port** for shipping and played a large role in the **slave** trade. By 1840, with more than 100,000 residents, New Orleans was one of the largest cities in the country.

5. By the early 1900s, New Orleans was an exciting place. Its nickname, "The Big Easy," was thought to have come from musicians who said how easy it was to find work. Others said it meant the city was more carefree than the city of New York, nicknamed "The Big Apple."

6. New Orleans was built mostly on higher ground along the river. A **drainage** and pump system, **devised** by engineer A. Baldwin Wood, allowed the city to grow into low-lying areas. But by the late 1900s, people realized that these low-lying areas were **at risk**. In 1995, a **flood** from heavy rain proved that the pumping system was not good enough.

7. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused the worst civil engineering **disaster** in American history. Floodwalls failed, and 80% of New Orleans flooded. Even though most residents had been **evacuated** before Katrina hit, thousands who stayed behind had to be **rescued**, many by helicopter. More than 1,500 people died. Most of the city has since reopened to residents, but some badly damaged areas are not ready to be lived in yet. Before Katrina destroyed so much of the city, 485,000 people lived in New Orleans. In June 2006, the population was less than 230,000.

8. Workers continue to clean up and rebuild this special city.

"We dance even if there is no radio."

—Chris Rose, journalist

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.
If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.
If it is false, write F and correct the information.

 _____   1.   New Orleans's nickname is "The Big Apple."

 _____   2.   New Orleans got its name from the title of a French nobleman.

 _____   3.   In the mid-19th century, New Orleans was one of the biggest cities in the US.

 _____   4.   People in low-lying areas of New Orleans were always
        very safe because of an excellent pumping system.

 _____   5.   Many people left New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina hit.

B. Ask and Answer

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.
Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1.   What is New Orleans famous for?

2.   Why did New Orleans grow to become a big American city by the mid-1800s?

3.   How did New Orleans get its nickname?

4.   How was the city of New Orleans able to grow from
    its original high ground along the river to low-lying areas?

5.   What warning did New Orleans have that its pumping system was not good enough?

6.   What happened to New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina?

7.   What is the condition of New Orleans today?

Vocabulary Review

Find a word in the reading that means:

#	Definition	Word
1	a person who performs the duties of a ruler	
2	a machine for forcing liquid or gas out of something	
3	the design and building of roads, railways, canals, docks, city structures, etc. (*two words*)	
4	hurt, injure, cause loss of value	
5	make useless, break into pieces	
6	without worry	
7	sending, transporting	
8	a person who lives in a particular place	

Discussion

1. There are two words in the article that refer to royal titles. Try to think of as many other words as possible that refer to members of a royal or noble family.

2. What is Mardi Gras? Have you ever been to a Mardi Gras celebration or seen one on television? If so, describe it. Besides New Orleans, what other city is very famous for its Mardi Gras celebrations?

3. Have you ever experienced a hurricane or other natural disaster? If so, describe it.

4. Do you think that the American government did enough to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina? Explain your answer.

5. Do you think that New Orleans will once again become a very popular tourist destination? Why or why not?