

# BCMS Article of the Week #2

2019-20

State of disaster is declared in southeast Louisiana after tornadoes

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.**

**Step 1: Read (skim)** the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (\*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

**Step 2: Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

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

Notes:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article
- Connections you make (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world)
- **Questions** you have - show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- As needed - notes that differentiate between **fact vs opinion, cause vs effect**.
- Observations about the **writer's craft** (word choice)

**Step 3: A final quick read** noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

**Step 4: Answer questions on looseleaf.** Remember to use complete sentences and to always include details (the evidence) to support your answer.

## NEWSLA

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.10.17

Word Count 668

Level 1040L



Eshon Trosclair holds her son, Camron Chapital, after a tornado tore through her home while they were inside on February 7, 2017, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The National Weather Service said at least three confirmed tornadoes touched down, including one inside the New Orleans city limits. Buildings were damaged and power lines went down. AP/Gerald Herbert

## Margin Notes

*(my thoughts, reactions and questions; Facts vs Opinions; Causes/Effects; Summary; Writer's Craft)*

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Brittany Ross remembers that she was enjoying the smell of her aunt's simmering white beans. Then, without warning, the tornado hit.

"The place started shaking, kind of twisting," she said. Ross was interviewed while standing among the wreckage at a small trailer park in eastern New Orleans.

The tornado, she said, lifted her trailer off the ground and slammed it down.

Ross, 26, her aunt and two others crawled out of the wreckage, as debris — shattered bits and pieces — flew around them in the air. They were uninjured, but suddenly homeless.

### **Massive Destruction But No Deaths**

The tornadoes that struck Ross' home and other parts of southeastern Louisiana injured about 40 people. They destroyed homes and businesses, flipped cars and trucks, and left thousands without power, but no deaths were reported, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said.

The governor took an aerial tour and made a disaster declaration before meeting with officials in New Orleans. The worst damage was in the same 9th Ward that was so heavily flooded in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck.

Edwards said he was heartbroken to see some of the same people suffering again. He promised that the state will provide the affected residents with the help they need as quickly as possible.

### **Stormy Weather**

The governor said seven counties across southeastern Louisiana were hit by tornadoes during an afternoon of stormy weather.

The storm ripped apart homes, toppled a gas station canopy, snapped tall power poles and flipped a food truck upside-down. It left shards of metal hanging from trees, and a truck driver was trapped as power lines wrapped around his cab.

The wall of severe weather also delivered heavy rain and hail to Mississippi and Alabama.

Artie Chaney said she and her granddaughter had just pulled up to the house from school when the storm hit.

Hail was falling on their car, she said, and she was "looking out the side door and saw the clouds moving fast. I heard this sound. We looked up in the air and we could see debris in the distance and before we knew it, it was just barreling down on us."

"We ran in the house. The lights went out. We ran down the hallway to the middle bedroom and then we just heard glass shattering. We

*Margin Notes*

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thought we weren't gonna make it. It seemed like it lasted a long time — it was a horrible experience. We were just so grateful to God that nobody was hurt."

Chaney said, her voice breaking as she looked at the damage, "We went through all of Katrina, with no damage. I didn't think I'd be starting over again."

### **Injuries Were Minor**

The Baton Rouge area was also hit. Three people suffered minor injuries and several homes and buildings were damaged in the historic part of Donaldsonville, about 20 miles southwest of the capital.

In Killian, just east of Baton Rouge, Mayor Craig McGehee said several houses were destroyed and several others damaged. An elderly couple suffered the only injuries he knew of — one had a broken leg, while the other sustained a broken arm.

The couple was "blown completely across the street with cinderblocks flying," but somehow ended up with injuries "no worse than a couple broken limbs," McGehee said. "Apparently the good Lord was looking after them."

### **Tornadoes Crossed Into Mississippi**

Steve Doering, an official at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, said the center suffered some structural damage. Fortunately, the deep-space equipment being built there does not appear to have been harmed.

Doering said the hardware and tooling used in the Orion and Space Launch System projects were not damaged. Nonetheless, Michoud will have to make a "significant effort" to cover everything up, so that future bad weather will not cause any damage while the building's roof and walls are being repaired.

Two Mississippi counties reported wind damage, but no injuries, from suspected tornadoes. Other areas of Mississippi saw heavy rain and hail from the storm system that spawned tornadoes in Louisiana.

*Article from Newsela*

*Margin Notes*

## Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions on **looseleaf**. Use **complete sentences**. **Always include relevant supporting information** from the text to support what you are saying.

1. List 5 words or phrases used by the author, or the witnesses, that communicate the idea that experiencing a tornado can be terrifying.
2. Why does the author include the section "Tornadoes Crossed Into Mississippi"?
3. Why does the author mention Hurricane Katrina in the article?
4. What are **two** things we can learn about surviving extremes in nature from this article?