

Scale of Events

You need: a classmate

ACTIVITY ONE

Here is a descriptive scale that can be used to measure the effects of an event:

Not a disaster

A small disaster

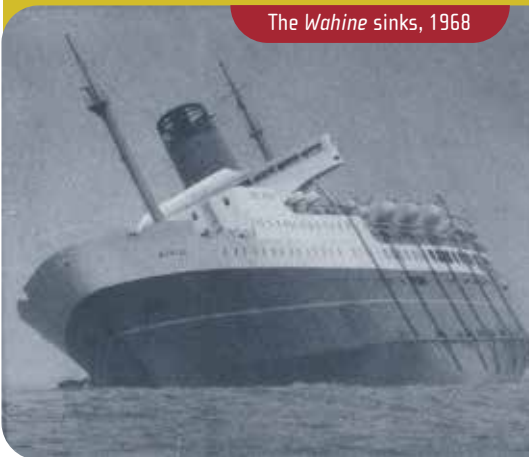
A disaster

A big disaster

A catastrophe

1. a. Place these events on the scale:

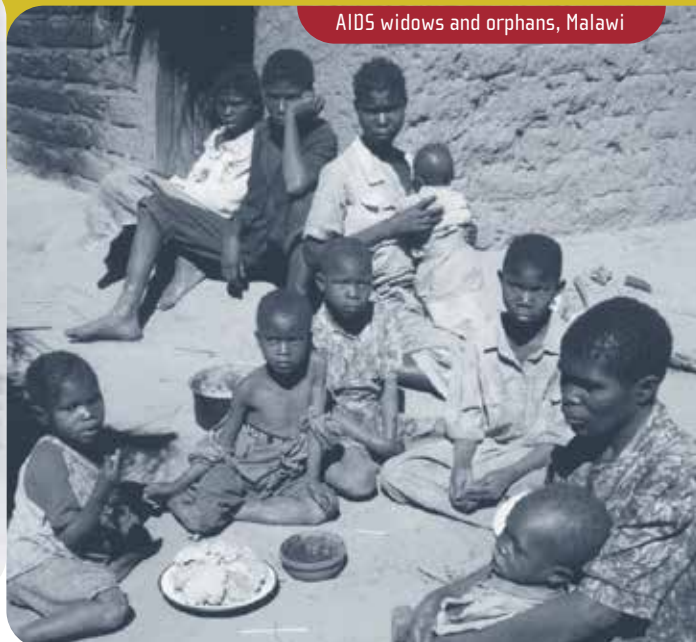
- i. 9 people, including a New Zealander, Rob Hall, died on Mount Everest during one night in May 1996.
- ii. 2 people died in a helicopter crash on the West Coast in 2000.
- iii. Last night's episode of my favourite TV programme was replaced by a golf tournament.
- iv. One-fifth of Cambodia's population was wiped out between 1975 and 1979.
- v. 41 people died in the Ballantynes department store fire in Christchurch in 1947.
- vi. I lost my money for the school camp.
- vii. Princess Diana was killed in a motor accident in Paris in 1997.
- viii. 2 795 people were killed in a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, New York, in September 2001.
- ix. Two of my friends died in a motor accident last year.
- x. There are no moa left because they were hunted to extinction.
- xi. Last year, in New Zealand, there were nearly 8 000 deaths due to cancer.
- xii. In 1968, 51 people died when the inter-island ferry *Wahine* hit rocks at the entrance to Wellington harbour.
- xiii. More than 1 million people died from bombs and starvation during the Siege of Leningrad, 1941–42.
- xiv. In 1999, 14 students and a teacher were shot and killed at Columbine High School in the US.
- xv. 26 people were killed at Wairau (near Blenheim) in a land dispute in 1843.
- xvi. 2 400 Americans were killed when Pearl Harbor was bombed in December 1941.
- xvii. In Raurimu, in 1997, a man with a gun killed 6 people, including members of his own family.
- xviii. My cat disappeared 3 weeks ago, and I haven't seen her since.
- xix. It is estimated that 13 million children and young people in Africa have the HIV/AIDS virus.
- xx. Our school's senior netball team lost the finals 27–28.



The *Wahine* sinks, 1968



Moa



AIDS widows and orphans, Malawi

b. Explain to a classmate how you made your decisions.

2. Discuss with your classmate the problems of working with this kind of scale.

ACTIVITY TWO

- Design a 3-point descriptive scale to measure how desirable you think certain jobs are.
 - Make a list of 15 jobs. (You may like to look at the Situations Vacant column of the newspaper.) Place them on your scale.
- Redesign your descriptive scale so that it has 5 points on it. Put the same 15 jobs onto this scale.
 - Now redesign your scale so that it is continuous. Put the 15 jobs where you think they belong on this scale.
- Of all the scales you tried, which is the most useful for showing how desirable you find the different jobs? Explain why.



Mass graves, Cambodia



Pearl Harbor, 1941