**Assignment: CASE STUDY- ZHOUQU, CHINA LANDSLIDE, August 8, 2010**

A horrific landslide occurred in a remote region of China on August 8, 2010, killing over 1700 people and destroying villages, homes, buildings, and destroying the livelihoods of thousands of people. See the excerpt from Boston.com below:

[**LANDSLIDES STRIKE ZHOUQU COUNTY, CHINA**](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/08/landslides_strike_zhouqu_count.html)

An excerpt from Boston.com, The Big Picture News stories in photographs, by Alan Taylor Sunday,

“ On August 8th, a temporary lake caused by a recent landslide broke loose above the town of Zhouqu, in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, China. The outflow slid down the valley as a wall of mud, wiping out houses and multi-story buildings, and killing at least 1,144 residents - with over 600 still reported as missing. More than 10,000 soldiers and rescuers arrived soon to comb through the mountains of mud that buried several parts of Zhouqu County. Engineers also worked to blast the debris that had passed through the town to partially block the Bailong River, causing further flooding.”

You have been asked to write an article for a magazine (or newspaper – your choice) about this landslide, informing the public about the hazards of landslides, why they happen in certain locations, and why the landslide in Zhouqu was so exceedingly devastating. Your article should also investigate how the political and social regimes of China helped, or hindered, the recovery efforts in Zhouqu.

You may choose from one of the following types of magazine/newspaper genre (audiences) for whom you would like to write:

* NY Times, Washington Post, etc.
* People, Cosmopolitan, Elle, etc.
* US and World Report, Newsweek, etc.
* National Geographic, Discover, Earth, etc.
* Ranger Rick, Highlight, Sesame Street, etc.

Your article should discuss the following facts and concepts:

* Why did this landslide occur?
* Why was it so devastating?
* Could it have been prevented or predicted?
* Was there a way to prepare or warn the local communities of this potentially life-threatening hazard?

Here is some basic geologic and geographic background:

* Weather: The region had recently experienced torrential rains from the monsoon season.
* Topography: This area of China borders Tibet (e.g.: the Himalayas) and is extremely mountainous, forested, and has numerous rivers and valleys.
* Aerial views of before and after the landslide: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-10925531>
* Forestry: The forests have been logged for trees as an industry for over 50 years, stripping the mountainsides and exposing the underlying soils and sediments.
* Rivers: The rivers have numerous dams and hydroelectric plants on them to support China’s growing need for electricity and energy.
* Earthquakes: This region experiences frequent earthquakes, some of which are extremely large and devastating – the most recent large earthquake was in 2008.

Here are some websites to help you start your research. Be warned – most of the information is strictly controlled by the Chinese government, so many of the articles may contain similar information. Hmmm, wonder how that affects recovery? Or if the control of the government may have had an effect on why the landslide occurred? These are also ideas you may want to consider.

* BBC. August 11, 2010. China landslide toll passes 1,000: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-10943094>
* China Daily.com. August 8, 2010. Zhouqu Landslide <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/slides/2010-08/09/content_11123208.htm>
* Crienglish.Construction of New Water Supply Network Starts in Zhouqu. September 9, 2010. <http://english.cri.cn/6909/2010/09/09/45s593724.htm>
* China Dialogue. September 3, 2010. On Shaky Ground. <http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/3801>

These websites are to get you started on your investigation. You will need to research further on your own.

* Your article should include the following general information about landslides (see Rubric for guide as what should be included):
  1. Natural causes of landslides (i.e. weather, topography, etc)
  2. Anthropogenic causes of landslides (i.e. dams, clear-cutting, undercutting, etc.)
  3. Angle of Repose with respect to slope stability
  4. Recovery efforts and future for this area.
* Your article should clearly state the NAME of the magazine or newspaper identifying your target audience
* Please keep in mind of your target audience and be sure to address your article to that audience level.
* Your article should also have a TITLE.
* Your article should be at least 1-2 pages, typed, single-spaced, 10-12 font, 1” margins.
* UP TO 5 POINTS EXTRA CREDIT will be awarded for creativity and the quality of your article! Instead of memorizing a bunch of facts that you will promptly forget, use your knowledge to tell others a story of something that really happened, a horrifying but fascinating look at how man influenced nature, resulting in tragedy. By sharing our knowledge of how these events occurred, such tragedies hopefully may be prevented in the future.
* Format your article to appear as if it were in a real magazine, with pictures, graphics, etc. The more creative and realistic, the more extra credit you will earn!

China Landslide Assignment 20 points

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| Criteria | Points Earned |
| Discussion of the following with respect to the Zhouqu landslide (14 points): |  |
| Weather (2) |  |
| * Angle of Repose (2) |  |
| * Topography (2) |  |
| * Forestry (2) |  |
| * Rivers (2) |  |
| * Earthquakes (2) |  |
| * Dams (2) |  |
| Other information to be included in your discussion:   * Factors affecting recovery (2 points) |  |
| Conclusion (2 points) |  |
| Grammar and spelling (1 point) |  |
| Bibliography (1) |  |
| TOTAL POINTS (out of 20) |  |
| Bonus points for creativity (up to 5 points possible) |  |

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| Outstanding explanation with superior supporting information: unusual insight and flashes of brilliance; creative and original | 90-100% |
| Good solid job on explanation with excellent support from examples; goes beyond minimum required for assignment | 80-89% |
| Good solid job; does what the assignment requires; decent reasoning or explanations | 75-79% |
| Decent explanation but too general or some inaccuracies or flaws in reasoning; or coverage of topic is accurate but does not meet the minimum requirement | 70-75% |
| Doesn’t effectively address assignment; fails to support assertions with data or examples; unclear explanations or major flaws in reasoning | 60-69% |
| Did not answer question or answer is missing | <59% |