

Natural Disasters

Curriculum Links:

Human and physical geography

Describe and understand key aspects of:

- Physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle



Key Facts:

- The Earth has three layers: the crust - the outer layer which we live on; the mantle - the second layer; and the core
- The Earth's crust is made up of huge slabs called tectonic plates which fit together like a jigsaw. These tectonic plates slowly move over long periods of time
- Earthquakes are a sudden violent shaking of the ground. They usually occur where tectonic plates meet and suddenly slip/move and a fault occurs
- Earthquakes can cause huge waves in the oceans called tsunamis
- Scientists use seismic waves to measure how strong an earthquake is, the size of the waves is called the magnitude—this is measured using the Richter scale
- A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust through which lava, ash and gases escapes
- Volcanoes have long vents which go through the Earth's first layer to the magma. This travels through the volcano and flows out as lava
- Volcanoes can be: active, dormant or extinct

Key Skills:

- Describe the layers of the Earth
- Locate and name major tectonic plates
- Locate some volcanoes and areas where earthquakes are common

Possible experiences: We should already know:

- Make exploding volcanoes
- Make models of volcanoes, tectonic plates etc
- Watch footage of natural disasters
- Follow news reports of current/recent disasters
- There are seven continents and five oceans
- The location of some countries
- What climate is and how it effects the world

Key Vocabulary



Active	A volcano which has recently erupted or is expected to erupt soon
Core	The centre part of the Earth
Crust	The Earth's outer layer
Dormant	A volcano which is capable of becoming active again
Earthquake	A shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust
Epicentre	The point on the Earth's surface above the focus of an earthquake
Erupt	When a volcano becomes active and ejects lava
Fault Lines	A break or fracture in the ground which occurs when a tectonic plate moves
Lava	Hot liquid rock which comes out of a volcano
Magma	Molten rock which is formed in hot conditions inside the Earth
Mantle	Part of the Earth between the crust and core
Richter Scale	A scale which expresses the strength of an earthquake
Seismic Wave	A wave generated by an impulse such as an earthquake
Tectonic Plates	Large pieces of the Earth's crust which move
Tsunami	A long, high sea wave which is caused by an earthquake
Vent	The part of the volcano which lava and gases erupt
Volcano	A rupture in the Earth's crust where molten lava, ash and gases escape into the air