

Holy Souls RC Primary School - Knowledge Organiser

Geography

Year 6

Strand: Extreme Earth

Overview

-A disaster is a 'sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.'

-Disasters on Earth may be as a result of human or natural causes, although some may be caused by both.

Human-Caused Disasters

-Examples include pollution, deforestation and use of the Earth's resources.

Natural Disasters

-Examples include volcanoes, earthquakes and extreme weather.



Natural Disasters

Natural disasters are the consequence of the natural processes of Earth.
-Natural disasters may cause loss of life, property damage, and economical/social problems.
- Human activity is likely to be at least partially responsible for some 'natural' disasters.

Climate



-Climate is a region's weather patterns over a period of time.
-Different area of the world experience different climates depending on where they are.
-Some areas experience hot climates whereas some experience cold. Some have dry climates whereas some have wet climates etc. This has a huge link with types of weather.

Tropical storms



-Tropical storms can be extremely fierce. They form in tropical areas of oceans and are called different names
-Different area of the world experience different climates depending on where they are. Hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones are all types of tropical storms.
- They can cause high waves, strong winds and heavy rain.

Blizzards



-Blizzards are severe winter storms with high winds, low temperatures and heavy snow.
-The strong wind and heavy snow can make it very difficult to see and move around an area.

Tsunamis



-Tsunamis have nothing to do with the weather. They are caused by earthquakes under the ocean floor.
-An earthquake occurs when the tectonic plates of the Earth's crust meet. Underwater, the force of the earthquake causes shockwaves which disturb the water and creates a giant wave or a series of waves.

Key Vocabulary

Disaster

Human

Natural

Physical

Pollution

Deforestation

Industrial

Nuclear

Radiation

Earthquake

Tsunami

Magma

Tectonic Plates

Volcanoes

Lava

Hurricane

Tornado

Drought

Flooding

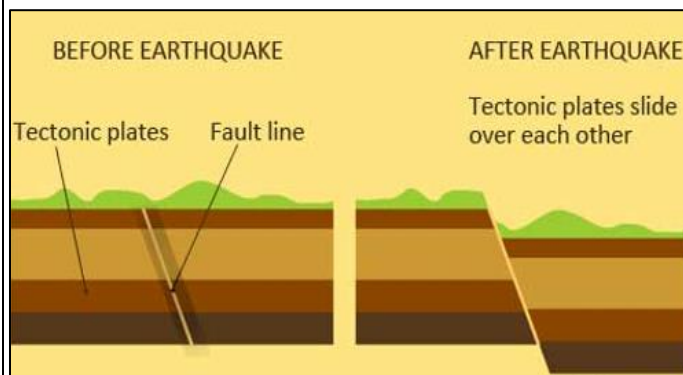
How Earthquakes and Volcanoes Happen

Earthquakes

-The Earth's crust is made up of many moving sheets of rocks, called tectonic plates.

-The places where these plates meet are called fault lines. As they rub past each other, pressure can cause the plates to suddenly slip.

-This releases a large amount of energy, and creates seismic waves that travel through the Earth. The waves are felt most strongly in close proximity to where the event takes place - an earthquake.



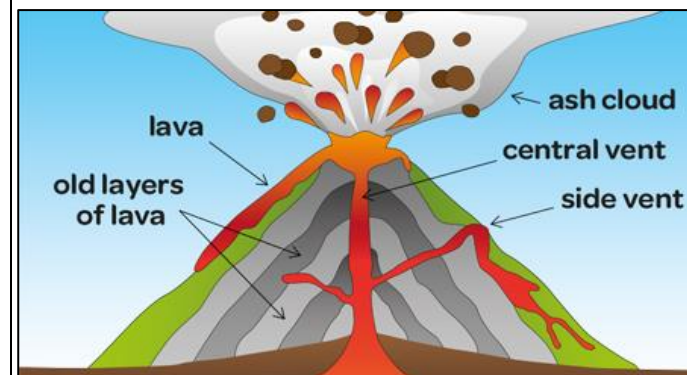
Volcanoes

-As tectonic plates pull apart or are pushed underneath one another, magma is melted.

-Melted magma rises to the surface because it is lighter than rock.

-If the magma rises quickly or is too thick, gas cannot easily escape. This builds pressure.

-Magma can therefore erupt as lava through openings in the Earth's crust (volcanoes).



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Earthquakes



-Earthquakes happen when two large pieces of the Earth's crust (tectonic plates) slip suddenly.
-This causes shock waves to the surface of the Earth.
-When earthquakes take place underneath or near water, they may trigger tsunamis - (huge waves) Both can cause huge human & environmental damage.

Volcanic Eruptions



-Volcanic eruptions occur when lava, rock fragments, hot vapour and gas are released through a volcano from beneath the Earth's surface.
-During eruptions, damage and death is caused by lava flows, mudslides and avalanches.

Tornadoes



-Hurricanes and tornadoes are both examples of adverse weather that involve extremely strong winds.
-Large hurricanes and tornadoes have the power to uproot trees, throw cars, and even dismantle buildings.
-They also cause huge storms which can cause flooding.

Drought/ Flooding



-Droughts occur when places do not receive an adequate water supply, often as a result of decreased rainfall.
-Flooding is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry. In addition to destroying environments, flooding can also cause contamination and spread disease.

Disasters Timeline

66 million BCE
Dinosaur extinction event – probable asteroid.

1650 BCE
Minoan eruption of Thera.

226 BCE
Rhodes Earthquake.

79 AD
Eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

526 AD
Antioch Earthquake.

856 AD
Damghan Earthquake.

1138 AD
Aleppo Earthquake.

1780 AD
Great Atlantic Hurricane.

1839 AD
Indian Hurricane/ Cyclone

1928-30 AD
Chinese drought.

1931 AD
Yellow River Flood.

1945 AD
Hiroshima Atomic Bomb.

1986 AD
Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster.

1991 AD
Gulf War Oil Spill

2004 AD
Indian Ocean Earthquake/ Tsunami