



Natural Disasters



A natural disaster is an event caused by nature such as floods, volcanic eruptions, tropical storms, tornados, landslides, wildfires and many more. These events cause great financial hardship for the people and communities in the locations where they occur and they can sometimes even result in loss of life.

Key vocabulary

Avalanche - An avalanche is any amount of snow sliding down a mountainside. As an avalanche reaches nearer to the bottom of the slope, it gains speed and power.

Drought - Whenever there is a shortage of rain over a long period of time, there is drought. This affects plants, animals and people.

Earthquake - Earthquakes occur when two large pieces of earth's crust suddenly slip. This causes shock waves to make the surface of the Earth violently shake in the form of an earthquake.

Flood - A flood happens when water covers land that is usually dry. A 'flash flood' is a term we use to describe a flood that happens very quickly in low-lying land and it's usually caused by very heavy rain.

Landslide - Landslides take place when dirt, pebbles, rocks and boulders slide down a slope together.

Tornado - This is a violent, rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most brutal can reach speeds of up to 30mph. They can destroy large buildings, uproot trees and hurl vehicles hundreds of yards.

Tsunami - A tsunami is a large ocean wave usually caused by an earthquake or a volcanic explosion on the ocean floor; they can be extremely damaging and dangerous.

Volcanic eruption - A volcano is a landform (usually a mountain) where molten rock (known as lava) explodes through the surface of the crust.

Wildfire - A wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in an area of easily burnt plants and vegetation occurring in rural areas such as forests and grasslands. They spread exceptionally quickly and completely devastate an area. They can be caused naturally (usually by lightning) or by humans.

Dear Year 6 parents/guardians,

This half term in Year 6, our geography topic is on natural disasters. Your child will learn about different examples of extreme weather and how this can have an affect upon an area of the world. They will also be learning about the physical features of geographic locations and whether these have an affect on a location/pose a risk to life.

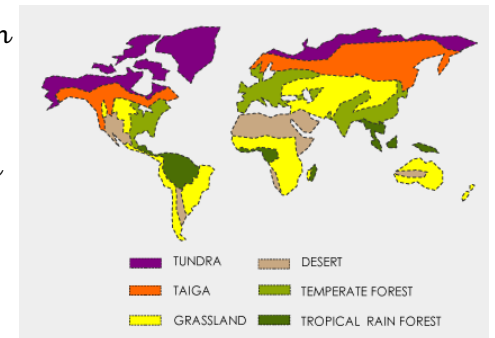
Please help your child with their learning by going through this fact sheet with them.

Many thanks, Year 6 teachers.

Physical Geography

Biomes - A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things.

Major biomes include tundra, forests, grasslands, and deserts. Plants and animals that live within smaller areas of a biome also depend on each other for survival. These smaller areas are called ecosystems.



Climate zones - We can divide the world's climates into three main groups:

Arctic zones (around the North and South Poles), tropical zones (around the Equator) and temperate zones (in between the tropical and Arctic zones).

Latitude and longitude - These are invisible lines that go all the way round the earth. Latitude are the lines that stretch horizontally from North to South. Longitude are the lines that stretch vertically from East to West. These lines are used like grid references to locate places in the world.

0 degrees latitude is the equator, which is the imaginary line all the way around the middle of the globe horizontally.

0 degrees longitude goes down straight through Greenwich (pronounced Gren-itch), London in England and is known as the Prime Meridian. It is these lines that gives us time zones.



Natural disasters around the world

A natural disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth. Countries are affected by this widespread destruction causing severe damage to the environment and sometimes loss of life.

Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (2004)

A magnitude 9.3 tremor struck undersea off the west coast of Sumatra on 26th December 2004. It caused a huge tsunami that killed people in 14 separate countries. The overall death toll is estimated at between 230,000 and 280,000 people. In some places, the tsunami wave reached 30 metres in height.



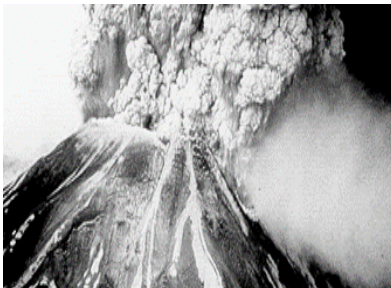
Hurricane Matthew (2016)

Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti on 4th October 2016 as a category 4 hurricane (a major storm rated 4 on a scale of 1-5 for windspeed) with torrential rain, massive storm surges and winds of up to 145mph. It left more than 40 people dead and thousands of homes flooded and without power. It is estimated that 2.1 million people were affected by Hurricane Matthew.



Mount Pelée volcanic eruption (1902)

The worst volcanic disaster of the 20th century is considered to be the eruption of Mount Pelée in 1902. It was on the island of Martinique in the Caribbean and it killed around 30,000 people.



Extreme places to live

Antarctic

Antarctica is the southernmost continent and site of the South Pole; it is a virtually uninhabited. The peninsula's isolated terrain shelters rich wildlife, including many penguins.



Sahara Desert

The Sahara Desert is located on the African continent with an area of 9,200,000 square kilometres. It is the largest hot desert in the world and the third largest desert overall after Antarctica and the Arctic.



Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest covers much of north-western Brazil and extends into Columbia, Peru and other South American countries. It is the world's largest rainforest, famed for its biodiversity and is crisscrossed by thousands of rivers, including the powerful Amazon.



Mount Fuji

Japan's Mount Fuji is an active volcano about 100 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. Commonly called "Fuji-san," it's the country's tallest peak, at 3,776 meters. A pilgrimage site (a long journey for spiritual reasons) for centuries, it is considered one of Japan's three sacred mountains and summit hikes remain a popular activity.

