



Natural Hazards

How does this unit link to prior learning?

Year 7

Map skills and Weather and Climate (Extreme Weather)

Year 8

Globalisation (Differences in development between countries)

What will you be learning about?

In this unit you will discover the sections of the earth and how plate boundaries work. You will explore how and why volcanoes erupt and what damage they can cause. Then you will discover what causes earthquakes and why their impacts can be very different in different countries and how to make buildings safe from earthquakes. Finally, you will investigate the impacts of tsunamis and tropical storms.

Key Focus

For each aspect of the natural hazards unit you will focus on the physical processes that cause the hazard, the ways it can affect people and the ways in which people can reduce the risk level of the hazard. Each lesson will start with knowledge retrieval, which will cover the knowledge, understanding and skills you have developed in previous lessons.

We will develop our learning by studying the following sequence of lessons:

1. Structure of the Earth

You will piece together the structure of the earth and then start to discover what plates are and how convection currents make them move.

2. Plate Boundaries

You will start to develop your understanding of plates by looking at the different types of plate boundaries and the hazards created by them.

3. Volcanoes

You will compare the formation and characteristics of shield and composite volcanoes.

4. Iceland Eruption

After learning about the characteristics of volcanoes, you will focus on the impacts and responses to a volcanic eruption in Iceland.

5. Interim Assessment

You will be assessed on the first part of the unit and any gaps or misconceptions will be addressed.

6. Living by Volcanoes

You investigate how and why people live close to volcanoes and then assess whether or not it is worth the risk of an eruption.

7. Super Volcanoes

You look at how the impacts of a super volcano can be different to a composite and shield volcano with the focus on Yellowstone in the USA.

8. Earthquakes

You will be able to explain the formation of the next hazard; earthquakes, and then also compare the effectiveness of earthquake measuring scales.

9. Case studies

You will compare two different earthquake case studies; Chile (HIC) and Haiti (LIC).

10. Earthquake Proof Buildings. Awe and Wonder

You will discover the ways in how countries try to make buildings withstand earthquakes and then complete a DME task based on EQ proof buildings.

11. End of Unit Assessment

You will be assessed on everything you have learnt through this unit and some elements of Year 8 and then close any gaps on misunderstandings.

12. Other Hazards

The final part of this module will see you have a brief look in to the formation, effects and responses of other hazards like tsunamis.

Key Vocabulary

Tectonic Richter scale Prediction Preparation Protection Eye wall Storm surge Extreme weather

Natural hazard Hazard risk Super volcano Pyroclastic flow Lahar

How will this unit help you in the future?

Year 10

This unit of work will provide the foundation for a unit in the GCSE Geography course called "The Challenge of Natural Hazards", which covers earthquakes, volcanoes and tropical storms as well as climate change.

After Lode Heath

This unit will be mean that you are better able to understand and react to natural hazard events as and when they occur in different parts of the world. You will be able to interpret the news better and it may even help keep you safe.