

NATURAL DISASTERS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

A **natural disaster** is an event caused by **nature** such as floods, volcanic eruptions, tropical storms, tornado, 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 results in **loss of life**.



WORLD'S DEADLIEST NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE LAST 100 YEARS

Disaster	Year	Death Toll
China floods	1931	1-4 million
Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami	2004	280,000
Haiyuan earthquake (China)	1920	273,400
Bhola cyclone (Bangladesh)	1970	250,000-500,000
Tangshan earthquake	1976	242,000-655,000
Typhoon Nina (China)	1975	229,000
Haiti earthquake	2010	160,000
Yangtze River flood (China)	1935	145,000

KEY VOCABULARY

Tropical storms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurricane • Cyclone • Typhoon 	<p>A tropical storm is a large rotating storm with high speed winds that forms over warm waters in tropical areas. Tropical storms have sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour. Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons are all tropical storms. They are given different names depending on where they appear. Hurricanes form over the North Atlantic Ocean and Northeast Pacific. Cyclones form over the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. Typhoons form over the Northwest Pacific.</p>
Earthquake	<p>Earthquakes occur when two large pieces of the Earth's crust suddenly slip. This causes shock waves to make the surface of the Earth shake in the form of an earthquake.</p>
Tornado	<p>A tornado is a violent rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of up to 300 mph. They can destroy large buildings, uproot trees and hurl vehicles hundreds of yards.</p>
Volcanic Eruption	<p>A volcano is a landform (usually a mountain) where molten rock erupts through the surface of the planet.</p>
Tsunami	<p>A tsunami is a large ocean wave usually caused by an underwater earthquake or a volcanic explosion. Tsunamis are NOT tidal waves. Tidal waves are caused by the forces of the moon, sun, and planets upon the tides, as well as the wind as it moves over the water.</p>
Flood	<p>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 rains.</p>
Wildfire/ Forest fires	<p>A wildfire is a fire that rages out of control in the wilderness, like a forest or countryside. Wildfires often begin unnoticed. These fires are usually triggered by lightning, extreme heat or accidents, such as campers or hikers that did not take care of their campfire properly. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes.</p>
Drought	<p>Wherever there is a shortage of rain over a long period of time, there is drought. Drought affects plants, animals, and people. It is a serious problem for farmers and for the people who depend on the crops they produce.</p>
Avalanche	<p>Technically, 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, this can cause even the smallest of snow slides to be a major disaster.</p>
Landslide	<p>Landslides take place when dirt, pebbles, rocks and boulders slide down a slope together. Sometimes these landslides are small, and hardly noticeable. Other times however, they can be substantial, involving the entire side of a mountain.</p>