

Summer Week 2 - Geography Lesson 3

Can I understand what natural disasters are?

Fast Five: (answers on next page)

- 1) What is one similarity between the USA and the UK?
- 2) What is one difference between the USA and the UK?
- 3) Name one animal that you can find in the USA.
- 4) What is the name of the USA's highest mountain?
- 5) What types of extreme weather can they have in the USA?

Fast Five answers:

- 1) What is one similarity between the USA and the UK? **Various answers - language, culture, power etc.**
- 2) What is one difference between the USA and the UK? **Various answers - size, weather, animals etc.**
- 3) Name one animal that you can find in the USA. **Various answers - bears, polar bears, bison, moose, wolves etc.**
- 4) What is the name of the USA's highest mountain? **Mt McKinley.**
- 5) What types of extreme weather can they have in the USA? **Tornadoes and hurricanes.**

What is a natural disaster?

A natural disaster is a sudden natural event such as a flood, earthquake, volcanic eruption or hurricane that causes a big loss of life and a great amount of injuries.

Today we are going to look at some of the types of natural disasters the USA encounters.

These are:

1. Tornadoes
2. Hurricanes
3. Earthquakes
4. Volcanic eruptions

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are common in the USA, especially in the area called 'Tornado Alley'.

Tornadoes form when warm air collides with cold air. The warm air rises through the cold air, which creates an updraft. This updraft can begin to rotate in circles if the wind is blowing quickly enough.

Watch this video to find out more:

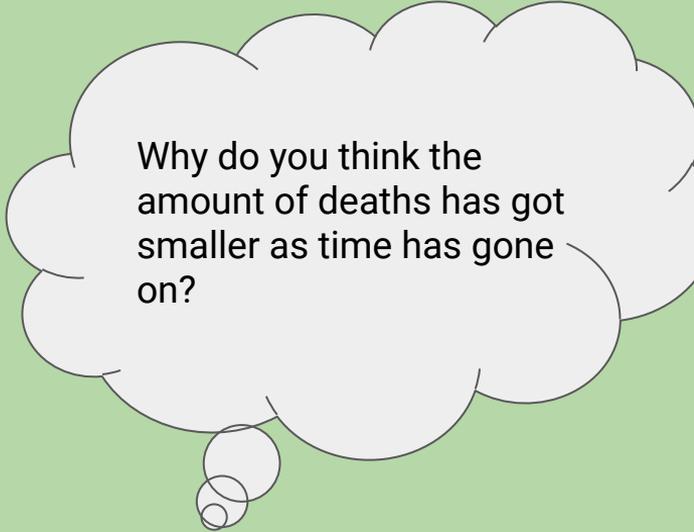
<https://safeYouTube.net/w/3kM3>



Tornadoes

Some of the worst tornadoes in US history are classed as natural disasters. Here are some examples:

1. Tri-State Tornado - 1925 - 695 deaths
2. Super Outbreak - 1974 - 315 deaths
3. Oklahoma Tornado Outbreak - 1999 - 50 deaths
4. Moore Tornado - 2013 - 24 deaths



Why do you think the amount of deaths has got smaller as time has gone on?

Hurricanes

Hurricanes are common on the south-east coast of the USA, mostly in the states of Florida, Texas, North Carolina and Louisiana.

Hurricanes form as a result of warm air rising from heated ocean water. They then travel across oceans until they sometimes hit land.

Watch this video to find out more:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/1sM3>

Hurricanes

One of the worst hurricanes in US history was Hurricane Katrina, in 2005. An estimated 1,200 people died as a direct result of the hurricane and it destroyed \$108 billion of homes and property.

New Orleans in Louisiana, and other coastal areas of Louisiana, still remain deeply affected by the hurricane. This is because most of the people affected by the hurricane were poor and have been unable to re-build their homes.



Earthquakes

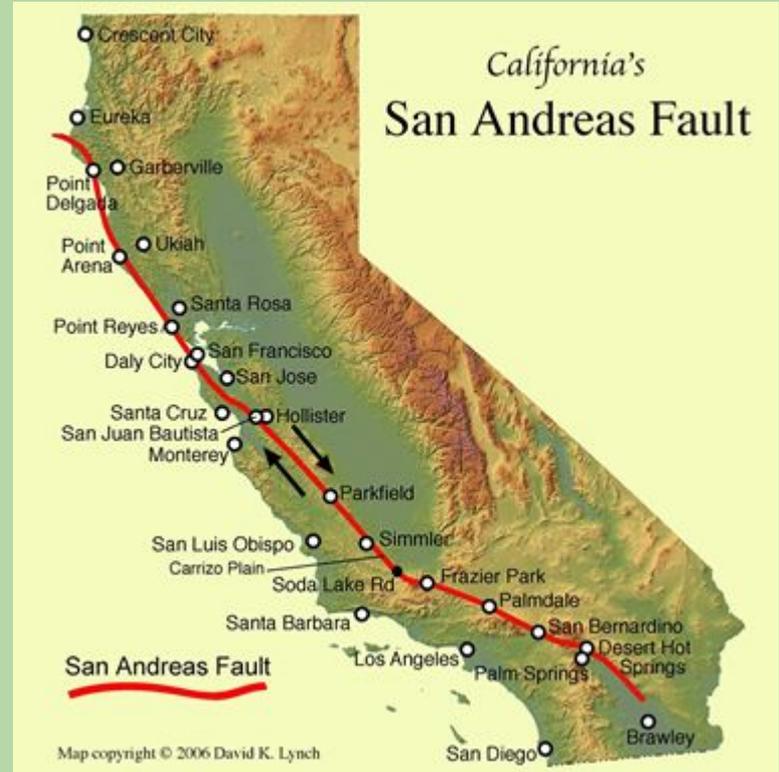
Earthquakes are caused when two or more tectonic plates (sections of the earth's crust) under the ground collide or slide under each other, causing the ground to move. This normally happens along what are known as 'fault lines', found all over the earth.

Watch this video to find out more:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/PtM3>

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are not as common in the USA as tornadoes and hurricanes. However, they have been the cause of a few natural disasters in America, especially in California along the San Andreas Fault Line.



Volcanic Eruptions

Volcanic eruptions are caused by shifts underneath the earth's crust, much like earthquakes.

Watch this video to find out more:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/xwM3>

The USA is also home to a supervolcano, underneath Yellowstone National Park.

Watch this video to find out more:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/MyM3>

Volcanic Eruptions

There are a few active volcanoes on mainland America, and many in Hawaii, which is a US state consisting of several islands in the Pacific Ocean.

The three most active volcanoes in the USA are:

- 1) Kilauea in Hawaii
- 2) Mount St Helens in Washington
- 3) Mount Rainier in Washington.

In 1980, Mount St Helens erupted, killing 57 people.

Activity

Using what you have just learnt, write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) explaining what natural disasters are and their history in the USA.

Red: fill in the gaps using the key words box to complete the paragraph.

Yellow: use the key words box to help you think of sentences for your paragraph.

Green: write a paragraph with 7 sentences explaining natural disasters. Write one more sentence explaining which natural disaster you think is the most interesting and why.