

Thursday 24th September 2020

Geography: Natural Disasters and Human Hazards

LO: To know and name different types of natural disasters and hazards caused by humans.



A disaster is an event that causes great damage and loss. Disasters can be divided into two types: natural and human.

Natural:

A disaster caused by nature or natural events. These include floods, hurricanes and tornadoes.

Human:

A disaster caused by human action. These include oil spills, chemical explosions and gas leaks in factories.



Natural Disasters:



Hurricane – a huge storm that forms over warm seas and oceans. A hurricane can cause winds of over 100 miles per hour. They are often formed in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.



Flood – when an area or land, that is usually dry, becomes submerged in water. Floods can be caused by an overflow of a body of water such as a river or lake, or by excessive amounts of rainfall over a short period of time.



Tsunami – a series of huge waves caused by an earthquake or volcano under the sea.

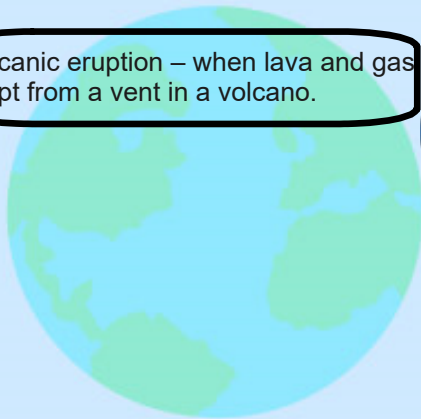
Earthquake – the sudden movement of the Earth's crusts (its outer layer). We measure the severity of earthquake's using the Richter Scale.



Volcanic eruption – when lava and gas erupt from a vent in a volcano.



Heat wave - a period of excessively hot weather. A heat wave can have devastating effects on crops, animals and people. Extreme heat can often contribute to other natural disasters such as droughts (prolonged shortage of water).



Human Hazards: Here are some examples of human disasters that have happened to our planet:



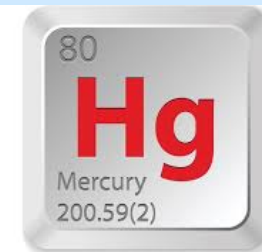
The Aral Sea – farmers started diverting water from the Aral Sea (a lake that was between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) to help their crops grow. This has caused the lake to almost completely dry up. The marine life has been lost and fisherman have lost their jobs.

Chernobyl – Chernobyl was a power plant in Ukraine which produced nuclear power. In 1986, an explosion caused one of the nuclear reactors to leak. Over thirty years later, the area is still unsafe to live in or near to.



Deepwater Horizon oil spill – on 20th April 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded. It released 780,000,000 (780 million) litres of oil into the sea. The damage to marine wildlife and beaches is still being felt.

The Minamata Poisonings – in April 1956, in Minamata, Japan, people began to exhibit symptoms such as being unable to walk or speak and were suffering convulsions. It soon transpired that a chemical factory had been dumping waste into the local ecosystem for years. The local water source, and therefore the fish living within it, became poisoned with mercury which subsequently caused thousands of deaths.



How Humans Cause Disasters

Over recent years, human activity has increased the numbers of apparent natural disasters. Scientists believe climate change has caused extreme conditions such as hurricanes and flooding.

Using your knowledge of climate change write a paragraph about how humans could lessen the possibility of causing a natural disaster.



Quiz!

1) Which natural disaster do we measure using the Richter scale?

A. Volcanic eruption B. Flood C. Earthquake

2) What is a period of extremely hot weather known as?

A. Flooding B. Heat wave C. Tornado

3) When an earthquake on the sea floor causes a tidal wave, what is the natural disaster it creates called?

A. Tsunami B. Tornado C. Hurricane

4) In which of the following natural disasters would you find lava?

A. Lightning B. Earthquake C. Volcanic eruption

5) Which of the following is NOT a natural disaster?

A. Wildfire B. Car Crash C. Avalanche

