Natural Diasaters

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Chapter 1

What are earthquakes

Earthquake are a natural disasters they involve the powerful movement of rocks in the Earths crust. The rapid real ease of energy creates dangerous waves that travel all around the earth.

Scientist use the different speed of the waves to locate the centre. The point on the surface directly above where the earthquakes originates.

Seismometers are used to measure the magnitude of earthquakes and you are unlikely to fell magnitude 3 earthquake but a magnitude 6 earthquake could potentially cause large damage. The damage caused by earthquakes also deeper a on their depth and fault line.

The earthquake that hit the Tohoku region of Japan on March 11,2011,had a magnitude of 9.0 and killed over 1500 people. The destruction caused by the Tohoku earthquake was made much worse by powerful tsunami that were triggered due to the earthquakes in the centre being located offshore.

The 2004 earthquake that occurred in the Indian Ocean new Sumatra,Indonesia triggered a series of tsunamis that killed over 200000 people in 14 countries.
The February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand followed nearly 6 months after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake shook the region. The earthquake killed 181 people and significantly damaged the central city. The economic damage caused by the earthquake and aftershocks is estimated to be around $15 billion pounds.

An earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010 with a magnitude of 7.0 killed over 200000 people according to Haitian sources.The most powerful earthquake ever recorded on Earth was in Valdivia, Chile. Occurring in 1960, it had a magnitude of 9.5.

It is important in earthquake prone countries such as Japan to build houses and buildings that react well to earthquakes. Good engineering practises can help stop buildings collapsing under the stress of large earthquakes.A volcano is a landform (usually a mountain) where molten rock erupts through the surface of the planet.

<u>What are volcanoes</u>

Lava is liquid rock (magma) that flows out of a volcano. Fresh lava ranges from 1,300° to 2,200° F (700° to 1,200° C) in temperature and glows red hot to white hot as it

flows.Volcanoes are like giant safety valves that release the pressure that builds up inside the Earth.
Over half of the world's volcanoes arise in a belt around the Pacific Ocean called the Ring of Fire.

Volcanoes can have a very serious effect on the lands and people around them when they erupt:

- .Buildings are destroyed and people are made homeless.

.People are killed.

.Clouds of ash cover plants making them inedible.

.Poisonous gases kill people and animals.

.Dust causes pneumonia and illnesses to the survivors.

.Dark skies, severe winds and heavy rains may follow an eruption for months afterwards.

People can get used to living near to a volcanoe but it is always a little dangerous. Scientist have estimated that at least 200,000 people have lost their lives as a result of volcanic eruptions during the last 500 year.
When the tectonic plates rup or bump it creates a earthquake or volcanoe. The three types of volcanoes are active volacnoe, dormant volcanoe and extinct volcanoe. A dormant volcano is when it only erupts 1 a year or 5. A active volcanoe is when it continuesly erupts and doesn't stop. The extinct volcanoe is the one that doesn't explode anymore.

Volcanoes mostly happen in places such as tialand,Korea,and China. It is devasting.

What are tsunamis

Tsunamis are very dangerous most countries are used to living next to rivers that have tsunamis all the time.Tsunamis can travel at speeds of about 500 miles or 805 kilometers an hour, almost as fast as a jet plane.The states in the U.S. at greatest risk for tsunamis are Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California.A tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. More rarely, a tsunami can be generated by a giant meteor impact with the ocean.

Tsunamis have become popular only in the recent times, but they have been existing and have caused damages since ages. Tsunami is one of the most dangerous disasters caused from the ocean and can have far reaching consequences like washing out the entire city, taking years to recover and re- build human civilization. Here are some simple tsunami

tales to enlighten oneself about this havoc creating disaster.A Tsunami is not just a single wave but a series of ocean waves called a wave train caused by an underwater earthquake, by a volcanic eruption, landslide, rapid changes in atmospheric pressure, or a meteorite.