

NATURAL DISASTERS FACTFILE



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Chapter 1

EARTHQUAKES

What are Earthquakes?

The Earth's top layer (crust) is made up of seven massive pieces called the tectonic plates, which are just like jigsaw pieces, from a puzzle. These move extremely at a slow pace, so you can never feel that you are moving. Unfortunately, sometimes these plates rub against each other pretty roughly, and things and people can feel this from over a mile away. This is what an Earthquake is.

Measuring Earthquakes

Earthquakes can be measured using a Seismograph, which is usually used by scientists, or a Mercalli scale, here are the different stages:

- I. Instrumental
- II. Weak
- III. Slight
- IV. Moderate
- V. Rather strong
- VI. Strong
- VII. Very strong
- VIII. Destructive
- IX. Violent
- X. Intense
- XI. Extreme
- XII. Catastrophic

The Seismograph is an instrument used to measure motion of the ground.

Earthquakes have occurred in places such as Chile, Alaska, Indonesia, Japan, India, Nepal and several more.

VOLCANOES:

What are Volcanoes?

Volcanoes is a type of natural disaster that has been formed when land is pushed together to make this cone shape. This erupts a boiling hot liquid fire named lava. The temperature of this is over 6000*c, but eventually cools down and becomes a rock called an extrusive igneous rock.

FACTS:

1. A volcano is a landform (usually a mountain) where molten rock erupts through the surface of the planet.
2. In simple terms a volcano is a mountain that opens downward to a pool of molten rock (magma) below the surface of the earth. It is a hole in the Earth from which molten rock and gas erupt.
3. The danger area around a volcano covers about a 20-mile radius.
4. The most deadly eruptions have occurred in Indonesia, with tens of thousands of lives lost to starvation, tsunami (as a result of the eruption), ash flows, and mudflows.
5. Volcanoes are vents or cracks in the Earth's surface through which hot gases, molten rock and debris are emitted. There are about 1,900 volcanoes in the world.
6. In Britain we have not had a volcano for 55 million years now.
7. The 3 types of lava are: Pele's hair, Pahoehoe lava, and Aa lava.
8. The name 'Volcano' comes from the Greek God of fire, Vulcan.
9. In 1883, the volcano Krakatoa exploded.
10. The 10 volcanic hotspots around the world are: Hawaii, Canary, Samoa, St Helena, Cape Verde, Iceland, Tahiti, Louisville, Cameroon, and Azores.

There are different types of volcanoes around the globe. They can be explosive, active, dormant, or extinct. Here is a list of volcanoes that have erupted:

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Chapter 2

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