

# Natural Disasters

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# Earthquakes

Earthquakes can be very dangerous. They can destroy trees, bridges and even buildings! The stronger the earthquake, the worse the outcome.

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption.

Earthquakes can be measured in two different ways. The first way is with something called The Richter Scale. You can also use it to compare the size of earthquakes. The other way is using something called the Macalli Scale. It is based on peoples opinions and how bad they thought the earthquake was.

Earthquakes kill approximately 8,000 people each year and have caused an estimated 13 billion deaths in the past 4,000 years. An average earthquake lasts for around a minute but some last for longer.

Earthquakes are caused when the Earth's tectonic plates either move together, move apart or rub together. Earthquakes are most common in places that are on fault lines. Fault lines are on the edge of a tectonic plate separating it from the others. This is where earthquakes are strongest.

Here is a picture of a city after a very bad earthquake!



# Volcanoes

There are many different types of volcanoes. They are all different shapes and sizes. Here is a list of some different types of volcanoes.

- Composite Volcanoes
- Cinder Cone Volcanoes
- Shield Volcanoes
- Strato Volcanoes

A volcano is a mountain that opens downward to a pool of molten rock below the surface of the earth. When pressure builds up the volcano erupts and pours out boiling hot lava. Lava is molten rock that has been extruded onto the Earth's surface. It is boiling hot and you should stay away from it! Luckily, if a volcano erupts and you're nearby most lava travels very slowly. It normally travels at about 5 miles an hour so you could easily out run it. Here is a picture of an erupting volcano.

There are more than 500 active volcanoes in the world. More than half of these volcanoes are part of the "Ring of Fire," a region that encircles the Pacific Ocean. A volcano is either active, dormant or extinct.

Active - A volcano that is constantly erupting.

Dormant - A volcano that has been known to erupt but is now quiet.

Extinct - A volcano that know longer erupts.

Active volcanoes in the U.S. are found mainly in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Oregon and Washington, but the greatest chance of eruptions near areas where many people live is in Hawaii and Alaska. Some of the volcanoes in Hawaii are Mauna Loa, Kohala and Kilauea.

Here is a picture of an erupting volcano!





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# Tsunamis

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. They can be very dangerous and cause chaos. Tsunamis destroy everything in their path, you don't want to get in the way of one.

Tsunamis normally occur after an earthquake. They can turn houses to rubble! As a tsunami approaches the shore, water may recede from the coast, if it is shallow enough the water may be pulled back hundreds of metres. If you are in the area, observing this is a good way to tell that a tsunami is on the way.

The most destructive tsunamis in history are known to have been in Indonesia, Japan, Portugal and Chile.

Tsunamis come in all different sizes. The bigger they are the worse they are! On the 29th of December 2004 a number of tsunamis hit the borders of the Indian Ocean. It was huge with waves up to 30 metres high. It killed 230,000 - 280,000 people in 14 different countries.

Tsunamis can be life changing

