

Natural Disasters!



by Samuel Lee

Intoduction

This is a book about all the disasters that happen because of the earths movement. A lot of disasters are made by man but some are just natural and we can't do any thing about them. The most well known ones are earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. This book talks into more detail about these things.





Chapter 1

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are things that make the ground move and tremble. If they are big then they can knock down buildings, but if they are small they might only knock something off a shelf.

Where earthquakes occur!

Most earthquakes happen in a place called the ring of fire. It is an arch around the Pacific Ocean. Earthquakes can occur in other places too. The really big ones can only occur on fault lines called tectonic plates. Only small ones can happen in the middle of a tectonic plate.

Earthquakes affect!

Earthquakes can demolish buildings, roads and railways. They can kill or badly injure thousands of people who are in the vicinity of it. The landscape can be totally changed by it because it shakes the land into new positions. Sometimes after an earthquake a tsunami can form. A tsunami is a big wave that floods towns and countryside.

What causes earthquakes?

The tectonic plates can slide against each other, hit each other or pull away from each other. This causes loads of tension and when they get free they get catapulted in different directions. This causes a shock wave which makes the tectonic plates tremble!

Did you know?

About 90% of the world's earthquakes occur around the ring of fire!



Chapter 2

Volcanoes

Volcanoes are things that look like mountains and erupt with lava. They occur on fault lines when the lava pushes up through the crust from the core. They can be devastating, and can destroy whole towns.

Where do volcanoes occur?

Volcanoes are also mostly found in the ring of fire on the fault line. But they can be found in other places on the edge of tectonic plates. These are called hot spots. Volcanoes that occur at sea can cause islands made out of cooled lava and ash.

How volcanoes erupt?

The rock in the crust is burnt into a thing called magma. It pushes up through the crust and creates a magma chamber where the pressure builds up. When the pressure gets too strong it pushes through the seafloor and comes out as lava.

Explosive volcanoes!

Explosive volcanoes throw out ash and gases from the earth into the sky. These gases are really dangerous and can suffocate animals including humans. This gas travels at extreme speeds and can outrun any normal car.

Did you know?

About 75% of the world's active volcanoes are underwater!



Chapter 3

Tsunami

A tsunami is a big wave that floods towns and cities after an earthquake has happened. It is most likely to hit towns which lie close to the sea, but it can come quite far inland if it's strong.

How do tsunamis come about?

Tsunamis are caused by an earthquake under the sea. It moves the sea floor about and eventually throws a huge wave onto the land nearby. The bigger the earthquake the stronger the tsunami. That is one of the reasons why after an earthquake you get to higher ground.

How do tsunamis look?

They start off as a small fast moving wave which is hardly noticeable. They can pass ships and no one on board will notice it. When they get to shallow water they grow to tremendous sizes which could wash away whole towns. They can grow up to 60 metres (200 feet) in size.

Did you know?

Tsunamis can reach up to 400mph!

