

# NATURAL DISASTERS



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### EARTHQUAKES:

Earth's outer layer - the crust - is formed with 7 huge slabs of land called tectonic plates. These plates are constantly moving and they push past each other with hard sudden movements.

Earthquakes are created when the tectonic plates collide and usually happen in countries along fault lines such as Chile, Japan, China and Nepal. They can be disastrous and many people can die from them, but they can also be minor and you sometimes don't feel them at all. Scientists use a seismograph to measure earthquakes, but they can also use the Mercalli scale to show the intensity.

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### VOLCANOES:

A volcano is a type of mountain that shoots hot lava out of its mouth. It is named after the Roman god of fire, Vulcan. There are three different types of volcanoes - an active volcano, a dormant volcano and an extinct volcano. The lava inside the volcano is stored in a magma chamber, near the centre of the earth and when it gets full, it gets pushed up the conduit and out of the vent. As the lava flows down the volcano, it settles and forms a layer of ash and rock. Whilst there are many volcanoes on earth, the largest in our solar system is actually on Mars. It's name is Olympus Mons and is approximately 624km in diameter and 25km in height. Some eruptions are easy to escape from, but a pyroclastic flow is practically impossible to get away from. It is 450mph (half the speed of light)

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### TSUNAMIS:

A tsunami is a powerful ocean wave, usually triggered by an earthquake. If the earthquake is strong enough it pushes the waves forward , resulting in a tsunami. The biggest tsunami recorded was in Alaska on the 9th of July 1958 and reached the record breaking height of 1720 feet. Tsunamis can travel at speeds more than 400 mph across the ocean and they can be strong enough to destroy homes, large buildings and other objects on land.

# Pictures













