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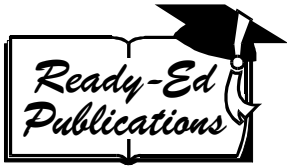
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World Disaster Series Book 1

# Earthquakes, Volcanoes & Tsunamis

A study of world disasters that have made a significant impact on people and places.

Activities suitable for students at Intermediate/Challenging levels.

*Note: This book was published in 2000 and contains references to disasters only up until that time.*

For ages 10+

Written by Jane Bourke. Illustrated by Melinda Parker.

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# Using this Book

This book is intended to provide starting points for student research into the areas of natural disasters. It explores recent natural disasters concerned with geological changes as well as examining some of the most devastating disasters in history.

## Glossary

Use the glossary on Page 38 to write definitions for related words and terms. Students can be given this sheet prior to starting their research so that they can complete it as they go along.

These words can later be used to make word sleuths to swap with friends, acrostic poems or to enhance creative writing on this theme.

## Internet References

The Internet is undoubtedly one of the most useful current sources for obtaining up to the minute information. Information usually appears on the Internet before newspapers and television and can be updated very quickly.

It also helps to develop students' research skills as they retrieve information on disasters in history. At the time of publishing, the website addresses were accessible. Students can easily reach the nominated sites via the Ready-Ed website by visiting the address below. Any future changes will also be posted on our website as they occur at

[www.readyed.com.au/urls/disasters.html](http://www.readyed.com.au/urls/disasters.html)

## Research tips for students

### Getting Started

- ❖ Make sure you understand exactly what it is you need to do. Ask questions of your teacher or parent if necessary.
- ❖ Write down any questions or areas of information that you think you need to research.
- ❖ Make yourself a timetable – it may avoid a last minute rush!

### Taking Notes

- ❖ Keep a record of the references that you use.  
e.g. "**Great Earthquakes in History**" (Title) Pages 24-49 (Pages) I.M. Shaiken (Author).
- ❖ Read (or view or listen to ) the relevant parts of your references. On second reading write down some key words and phrases. Then close the book and write out your notes in your own words. Refer to key words for ideas and correct spelling.
- ❖ Organize your notes into sections or under headings. Include a contents page and reference list.
- ❖ Review – check that you have covered all that was required.

### Presentation

- ❖ Usually your teacher will suggest the presentation format, i.e. a chart, booklet, oral presentation etc., but often you may need to decide this yourself. Remember that the appearance of your work is important. Try to relate the handwriting and design to the theme of your work. Consider the neatness and effectiveness of your titles, handwriting, pictures, diagrams and borders.

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# Disasters:

## Background Information

A disaster is a large scale, uncontrollable catastrophe that can cause human loss, suffering, displacement and chaos, both economic and social. Disasters have been occurring since the beginning of time and are categorised as either natural or man-made. Other disasters, known as personal disasters, usually cause pain and suffering and/or loss to individuals.

*Some examples of natural disasters include:*

### **Weather related disasters**

Tropical cyclones, lightning, tornadoes, hurricanes, drought and floods.

### **Geological events**

Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, fires, avalanches and landslides.

*Some examples of man-made disasters include:*

### **Aviation disasters**

Crashes, explosions, ground collisions.

### **Nuclear disasters**

Contamination, explosions (Chernobyl).

### **Maritime disasters**

Shipwrecks, collisions, oil spills.

### **Chemical disasters**

Oil spills, gas leaks.

### **Other man-made disasters**

Train collisions and derailing, bus collisions, building collapse, bridge collapse, disease outbreak.

*Some examples of personal disasters include:*

Death of a family member, home burning down, theft of personal belongings, car accident, disease.

# Finding Out About Disasters

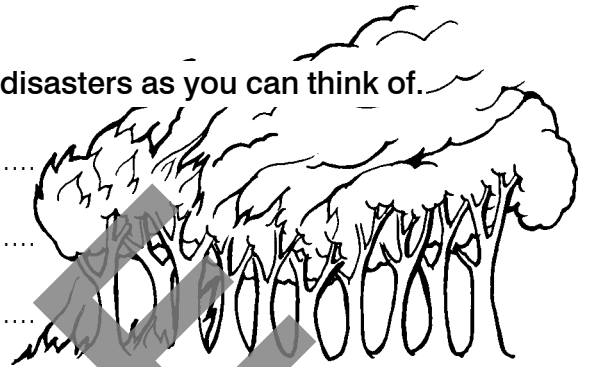
❖ Disasters happen around the world at any time of the day or night.

Some disasters include:

floods, cyclones, fires, earthquakes, ...

Continue this list adding as many different types of disasters as you can think of.

.....  
.....  
.....



Discuss your list with your partner.

In your own words make up a definition of what constitutes a disaster

.....  
.....  
.....



Explain the difference between a natural disaster and a man-made disaster.

.....  
.....  
.....

Organize the list from the top of the page under these headings:

**Natural Disasters**

**Man-Made Disasters**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

❖ You or someone you know may have experienced a personal disaster.  
Give a brief outline of it.

.....  
.....

# Disaster Watch:

## Background Information

People find out about disasters through a variety of media. Television and radio channels provide news broadcasts, while the Internet is also a good source for up to the minute information. Newspapers provide articles, pictures and other information although it is sometimes easier to find more recent information via the television and Internet as newspapers cannot be updated once they are printed.

Local disasters are more likely to be reported in local newspapers while national and international disasters are more likely to be found in national newspapers. A large local disaster such as a tropical cyclone or flood destroying a town, is likely to be reported internationally depending on the amount of devastation the disaster causes.

### Examples of recent international disasters (both natural and man-made) include:

- ❖ On the 17th August, 1999, an earthquake registering 7.4 on the Richter scale devastated the city of Izmit and the surrounding areas in Turkey. Approximately 16 000 people were killed, 27 500 were injured and more than 54 000 buildings were destroyed. Over 1000 aftershocks were felt in the area.
- ❖ In Taiwan, September, 1999, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale killed at least 1720 people and trapped 3000 in the rubble of collapsed buildings. Approximately 2000 aftershocks were felt, some as strong as 6.8 on the Richter scale.
- ❖ The train crash in West Bengal, India which left hundreds dead when two trains crashed in a head on collision on August 2nd 1999.
- ❖ The canyoning disaster in Switzerland, which claimed the lives of 21 young adventurers, occurred on July 27th 1999.
- ❖ The tsunami in Papua New Guinea that occurred on July 17, 1998 resulted in the deaths of approximately 5000 people.
- ❖ The Thredbo landslide in which 18 people lost their lives (July 30, 1997).
- ❖ The collapse of the Maccabiah bridge in Israel where four people were killed (July 14, 1997).
- ❖ The TWA Flight 800 explosion July 17, 1996 which killed 230 people.
- ❖ The volcanic eruption of Mt Pinatubo in June 19, 1991 eruption affected more than 249 000 families or about 1.18 million people, including 847 deaths, 184 injuries and 23 missing.