

## Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
<b>disaster</b>	A sudden accident or catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.
<b>epicentre</b>	The point where an earthquake reaches the earth's surface.
<b>Ring of Fire</b>	An area around the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanos occur.
<b>erupt</b>	When a volcano explodes and shoots out lava.
<b>Richter Scale</b>	A scale used to measure the strength of an earthquake.
<b>earthquake</b>	The violent movement of part of the earth's surface.
<b>tsunami</b>	A huge sea wave caused by an under water earthquake.
<b>magma</b>	Molten rock beneath the earth's surface.
<b>tectonic plates</b>	Large pieces of the earth's crust (surface).
<b>volcano</b>	A mountain with an opening from which lava and hot gases flow.
<b>lava</b>	Molten rock that flows from volcanos.
<b>hurricane</b>	A storm with violent winds.
<b>tornado</b>	A violent storm with whirlwinds.
<b>drought</b>	A long period of dry weather.
<b>Mercalli Scale</b>	A scale used to measure the strength of an earthquake.

## What is a natural disaster?

Earthquakes



Earthquakes happen when two large pieces of the Earth's surface (tectonic plates) slip suddenly. This sends shockwaves to the surface of the Earth. When earthquakes take place underneath or near water, they may trigger tsunamis. Both can cause huge human and environmental damage.

Volcanic Eruptions



Volcanic eruptions occur when lava, rock fragments, hot vapour and gas are released through a volcano from beneath the Earth's surface. During eruptions, damage and death is caused by lava flows, mudslides and avalanches.

Hurricanes / Tornadoes



Hurricanes and tornadoes are both examples of extreme weather that include very strong winds. Large hurricanes and tornadoes have the power to uproot trees, throw cars, and even dismantle buildings. They also cause huge storms which lead to flooding.

Drought / Flooding



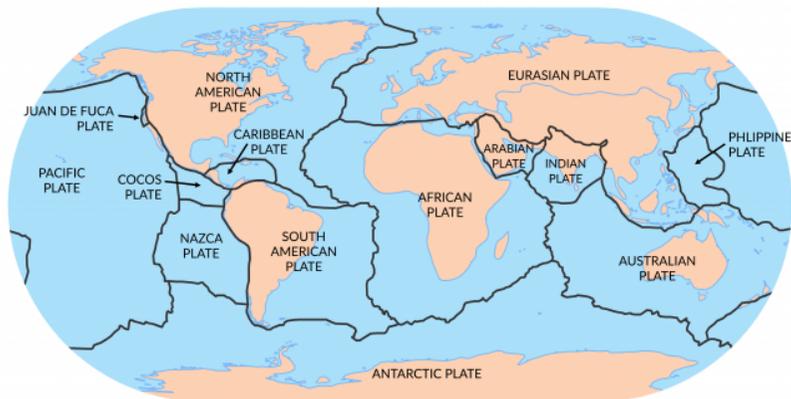
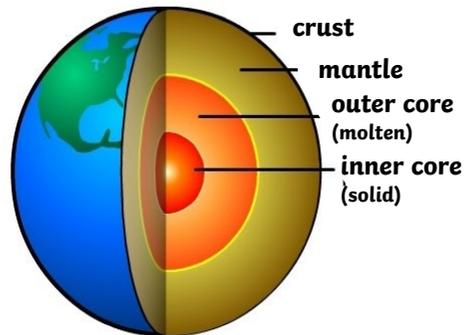
Droughts occur when places do not receive an adequate water supply, often as a result of decreased rainfall. Flooding is an overflow of water that submerges land which is usually dry. In addition to destroying environments, flooding can also spread diseases.

A **natural disaster** is an event caused by **nature** such as floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tropical storms and many more. They cause great **hardship** for the communities where they happen and they can sometimes even result in **loss of life**. It can take a long time for a community to recover from a natural disaster and they often need to ask other countries for **aid** to help to rescue people and to start to rebuild.

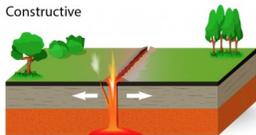
## Tectonics

The surface of the Earth is split up into massive chunks. These are called **tectonic plates**. These tectonic plates are floating on the layer of **molten rock** beneath them called the **mantle**. When these plates move into each other or apart from each other we experience earthquakes and volcanoes on the Earth's surface.

### Inside the Earth



Constructive



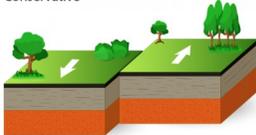
**Constructive margins** are where two plates are **moving apart**. **Magma** (molten rock) rises to fill the gap and cools forming new **crust**. This is when **volcanoes** occur.

Destructive



**Destructive margins** are where two plates **move towards each other**. When different types of plates collide different things happen. This can lead to some plates being destroyed and some folding upwards to create **mountain ranges**.

Conservative



**Conservative margins** are where two plates **move sideways** past each other or in the same direction at different speeds. No new crust is formed. This is when **earthquakes** occur.

## Geography

## Restless Earth Natural Disasters

### Earthquakes

Earthquakes happen when two **tectonic plates** collide or slide past each other. It is very difficult to **predict** when an earthquake is going to happen.

Sometimes earthquakes are very slight and we hardly feel them. Sometimes they are very powerful and buildings shake and can collapse.



The strength of an earthquake can be measured using the **Richter** or **Mercalli scales**.

Earthquakes start deep under the ground.

The point at which an earthquake starts is called the **epicentre**.



### Extending your learning

5 things you could do at home to extend your learning:

1. Research a recent natural disaster—find facts and figures about how it affected people's lives.
2. Visit the Earth Gallery at the Natural History Museum.
3. Find out which places on Earth are the most dangerous to live because of volcanoes and earthquakes.
4. Design an earthquake-proof house—what features would make it work well?
5. Create a "Natural Disaster Survival Guide". Think about useful tips to include and a list of essential items needed for survival.

## Year 6 Autumn Term