

Key Vocabulary

Richter Scale	A scale to measure the strength of an earthquake.
Tectonic Plates	Large sections of floating rock on the earth's crust that fit together like a jigsaw.
Epicentre	The centre of an earthquake.
Seismograph	An instrument that measures and records details of earthquakes, such as force and duration.
Tsunami	A long high sea wave caused by an earthquake or other natural disturbance.
Magma	Hot liquid rock inside a volcano
Lava	Hot molten or semi-liquid rock that has erupted from a volcano.
Active	A volcano that has had at least one eruption in the last 10,000 years.
Dormant	A volcano that is not currently erupting, but could erupt again in the future.
Extinct	An extinct volcano that has not erupted for at least 10,000 years and is not expected to erupt again.
Natural Disaster	A natural event such as a flood, earthquake, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life.



10 Facts About Natural Disasters

1. Earthquakes involve the powerful movement of rocks in the Earth's crust.
2. The most powerful earthquake ever recorded on Earth was in Valdivia, Chile. Occurring in 1960, it had a magnitude of 9.5.
3. Volcanoes are a mountain or hill that has a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
4. The word volcano originally comes from the name of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan.
5. Volcanoes are usually located where tectonic plates meet.
6. There are three types of volcano: composite, cinder and shield.
7. Over 75% of the volcanoes on Earth are found in the 'Ring of Fire' located in the Pacific Ocean.
8. Some famous volcanic eruptions include: Vesuvius 79AD, Mount Krakatoa in 1883, Mount St Helens in 1980, Mt Pinatubo in 1991, Mount Mayon 2018 and New Zealand 2019.
9. Regions in disaster danger zones often have warning systems in place to give people as much time to evacuate as possible.
10. Generally earthquakes last between 10 and 30 seconds but aftershocks can occur for up to a month afterwards.

