

NATURAL DISASTERS



INTRODUCING NATURAL DISASTERS

Read this article written for kids that explains what natural disasters are.

natural disasters

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A massive earthquake destroyed many buildings in Chile in February 2010.

Martin Bernetti—AFP/Getty Images



Introduction

Natural disasters are violent events that are outside the control of humans. They are caused by the forces of nature and may result in loss of life, injury, and damage to property. There are many types of natural disaster, including **avalanche**, **drought**, **earthquake**, **flooding**, **hurricane**, **tornado**, **tsunami**, **volcanic eruption**, and **wildfire**.

Predicting Natural Disasters

The best way to predict or tell when natural disasters will occur is to study ones that have already happened. This gives scientists important information about the events that lead up to disasters. It also helps the scientists understand the forces of nature that cause the disasters.

Scientists have developed a good understanding of the factors that lead to hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding. Predicting events such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, however, is much more difficult. Volcanoes may give warning signs, such as leaking gases or spouting lava, before erupting, but sometimes they erupt with no warning at all.

Earthquakes are also difficult to predict. However, scientists are aware of the regions in the world where earthquakes are most likely to occur. In these places they use equipment to monitor any changes that might suggest an earthquake is about to happen.



Did You Know?

The earthquake of 2011 was one of the deadliest natural disasters in Japanese history.

Taken from <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/natural-disasters/609706>



LET'S PRACTISE!

Decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- Natural disasters can be controlled. ☐
- There are many types of natural disasters. ☐
- Previous natural disasters are useful for scientists to understand what causes them. ☐
- It's easy to predict an earthquake. ☐
- Volcanoes always give warning signs before erupting. ☐