

NATURAL DISASTERS

Across

1. a very strong wind in west Atlantic
3. tidal wave
4. a large amount of water spread from a river, sea etc. that covers an area that is normally dry
6. a very bad event, causing harm or death
8. move somebody from a dangerous place
9. a long period without rain



Down

2. a sudden violent movement of the ground
3. a strong wind that blows in a circle
5. hot liquid rock
7. (of a volcano) to explode and throw out fire, lava, smoke etc.

Use the words from the crossword to complete the sentences

1. Last night volcano Maui _____ and the hot _____ poured downhill. Since there are two villages located at the foot of the volcano, the local population was _____.
2. The devastation caused by superstorm Sandy, particularly in New York and New Jersey, is tragic, but the _____ has at least put climate change back on the map.
3. After the harshest winter in decades, the Balkans region in the southeast of Europe is now facing its hottest summer and the worst _____ across the area in nearly 40 years.
4. A powerful _____ off the coast of Indonesia sparked a three-metre-high _____ that killed at least 113 people.
5. A landslide caused by rains in southern China left 21 people missing today, adding to a growing death toll from China's worst _____ season in a decade.
6. This summer a dozen _____, which are more common in the US, have hit Europe. The twister which swept through Poland yesterday flattened more than 400 hectares of woodland in the area.
7. The US navy has been deployed to help avert a looming environmental _____ in the Gulf of Mexico.

Common Natural Disasters



Earthquakes



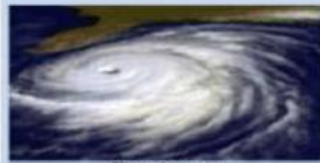
Volcanoes



Tsunamis



Landslides



Hurricanes



Tornadoes



Blizzards



Dust Storms



Floods



Droughts



Wildfires



Sink Holes

Natural Disasters

Natural Disasters

When something is **natural**, it comes from nature and it is not manmade. A **disaster** is something that usually causes major problems. It would be a disaster if a bridge suddenly fell because it was not built properly. Disasters are negative but can be manmade. However, when speaking about **natural disasters** you can combine the two terms and define them as catastrophes that occur in nature or by natural processes. They are not manmade. A natural disaster takes place in populated areas of the world when lives may be lost, the property is severely damaged, and the economy is negatively affected.

Natural disasters may include an asteroid collision with Earth, avalanche, landslide, blizzard, thunderstorm, earthquake, flood, gamma-ray burst (from space), volcano, heat wave, hurricane, solar flare, drought, tornado, tsunami, hail, and wildfire.

It is not a natural disaster if it occurs in an unpopulated area and there is no loss of life or property damage. For example, if a tsunami took place on an uninhabited island, it would not be a disaster. Disasters cause a loss. There are many things that can happen during a natural disaster. Sometimes, more than one disaster occurs at the same time. Landslides may occur during severe flooding and thunderstorms.

Natural disasters occur throughout the world, and often people know when they are coming and can prepare for them and be safe. Other disasters may occur without warning. Most people die during a natural disaster when there is no time to prepare for it. Though natural disasters cause many problems, injuries, and sometimes death, they are not to be feared, but being aware of them and properly preparing for them is extremely important.

In addition, there are natural disasters that can occur more often in one part of the world or country than in other regions. For example, a person living in the middle of the United States would not need to be concerned with a tsunami, but someone living along the coast would be affected. In the middle of the country, a tornado might occur, but often there are fewer of them along the coast.

The top 10 natural disasters most likely occurring throughout the world include blizzards, droughts, earthquakes, floods, heat waves, hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornados, tsunamis, and wildfires. Some of the listed disasters may occur simultaneously such as a hurricane and thunderstorm causing massive flooding, or possibly a tsunami, or a heat wave coupled with wildfires.

Other natural disasters include **landslides** and **avalanches**, which can be caused by earthquakes, heavy rain or snow, or other disasters. Snow or mud can be released from the side of a mountain or hillside burying the area below. Finally, there are active **volcanoes**, which are eruptions of a mountaintop, sending out ash clouds, lava, and more, causing damage to property and the loss of human life.

The most common types of natural disasters in the world are floods and storms.

All natural disasters cause damage and destruction, and often one or more people die due to the effects of the natural disaster. Many of the disasters can be predicted ahead of time with some warnings given for people to prepare and move to safety.

1) All the following statements are true EXCEPT:

- ☐ A: Disasters can include those made by man.
- ☐ B: It is not a natural disaster if there is no loss of life.
- ☐ C: A tsunami taking place on a deserted island is a natural disaster.
- ☐ D: An asteroid collision with Earth would be a natural disaster.

2) A catastrophe that occurs in nature or by natural processes and causes loss of life is:

- ☐ A: A manmade disaster
- ☐ B: A global disaster
- ☐ C: A natural disaster
- ☐ D: An unnatural disaster

3) All the following may be natural disasters EXCEPT:

- ☐ A: Oil spill
- ☐ B: Landslide
- ☐ C: Avalanche
- ☐ D: Volcano

4) Which of the following natural disasters are most likely to occur simultaneously?

- ☐ A: Heatwave and droughts
- ☐ B: Thunderstorms and volcanos
- ☐ C: Earthquakes and blizzards
- ☐ D: Wildfires and floods

5) Which of the following may occur during severe flooding and thunderstorms?

- ☐ A: Earthquakes
- ☐ B: Landslides
- ☐ C: Solar flares
- ☐ D: Wildfires

6) Which part of the United States would most likely experience a tsunami?

- ☐ A: States on the east coast
- ☐ B: States on the west coast
- ☐ C: States in the Midwest
- ☐ D: Both A and B