



Natural Disasters – Knowledge Organiser

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School – Year 5



Key Vocabulary	
climate	Weather conditions in an area in general or over a long period of time.
temperature	The degree/intensity of heat, measured by a thermometer.
environment	The surroundings in which a person, animal or plant lives.
volcanic eruption	Occurs when magma is released from a volcano. Lava and gas are discharged from the vent.
earthquake	A sudden violent shaking of the ground, caused by movements within the Earth's crust (tectonic plates).
Richter scale	A numerical scale used to measure the intensity of an earthquake.
tectonic plates	Pieces of the Earth's crust. These plates move and interact with one another. Sudden movement causes disasters.
tornado	A moving, funnel-shaped vortex of rotating winds which forms on land beneath a large storm.
hurricane	A huge storm with violent, rotating winds which forms over sea.
flooding	The covering of normally dry land with a large amount of water.
drought	Abnormally low rainfall over a long time.
tsunami	High sea waves caused by earthquakes.

Locational and place knowledge

Different areas of the world experience **different climates** and, as a result, have different experiences of the weather (including the occurrence of natural disasters).

Types of natural disasters

Types of extreme weather and natural disasters include:

- Tropical storms
- Tsunamis and floods
- Lightning
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic eruptions

The Water Cycle

The water cycle explains how water circulates between the Earth's oceans, atmosphere and land. The 4 stages are **evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection**.

Human impact

Natural disasters can significantly impact people's lives:

- Loss of life and loved ones
- Destruction of their home/town
- Destruction of their school (no education)
- Destruction of workplaces (no jobs)

It can often take many years for towns to fully recover from the impact of a natural disaster.

Tectonic plates

The Earth's crust isn't one solid layer. It is broken up into huge areas called **tectonic plates** that float on top of the mantle. These plates are always moving. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur due to sudden movement at tectonic plate boundaries.



GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

If you go down to the woods...
 Around the World
 All about me and my school
 Wonderful Weather
 Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside
 Where in the World is Wally...?
 Let's explore the jungle
 Chocolate
 Discovering Europe
 Investigating our local area
 Seven Worlds, One Planet
 Earning a living
 Saving the Rainforest
Natural Disasters
 Contrasting National Parks
 Warley Woods

