



Natural disasters

Education & awareness

Activity 1: Activate students' prior knowledge about extreme natural events.

Ask: What do you already know about extreme natural events? Have students brainstorm a list of extreme natural events around the world, such as:

- ▶ avalanches or landslides
- ▶ earthquakes
- ▶ bushfires
- ▶ flooding or drought
- ▶ cyclones
- ▶ tornadoes
- ▶ volcanoes
- ▶ tsunami
- ▶ severe thunderstorms, hail

Ask: What type is most likely to happen in our area?

Then look at the photo gallery of extreme natural events.

As you look at each photo, ask students if they or their families have ever experienced any of these conditions.

Invite volunteers to share their experiences.

Ask: How did you protect yourself? How do you think you could have been better prepared?

Activity 2: Have pairs write descriptions of extreme natural events.

1. Have pairs write descriptions of extreme natural events.
2. Divide students into pairs.
3. Show students photographs of natural disasters on the National Geographic Natural Disasters web page, <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/>.
4. For each image, ask pairs to write two captions to describe the event the image shows.
5. Have pairs share their captions as you look at each photo as a class. As you look at each photo, ask:
 - ▶ What makes this event "extreme"?
 - ▶ What could be dangerous about this event?

Activity 3: Discuss how extreme natural events are the same and different

After students have looked at all of the photos, ask:

- ▶ How are some of the events the same?
- ▶ How are some of the events different?
- ▶ What effects on our lives could all of them have?

For example, students may point out that cyclones, tornadoes and thunderstorms all have strong winds and rain.

Avalanches and blizzards both have very cold weather. Ask: Which extreme natural event do you think is most dangerous? Why? What about for us here in Cairns?

Classroom activity

Classroom resources provided by Cairns Regional Council



Curriculum links

7	Science	ACSHE120: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use and influence of science	Solutions to contemporary issues that are found using science and technology, may impact on other areas of society and may involve ethical considerations
7	Science	ACSHE121: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use & influence of science	People use science understanding and skills in their occupations and these have influenced the development of practices in areas of human activity
7	Science	ACSHE223: Science as a Human Endeavour; Nature and development of science	Science knowledge can develop through collaboration across the disciplines of science and the contributions of people from a range of cultures
7	Geography	ACHGK042: Knowledge & Understanding	Causes, impacts and responses to an atmospheric or hydrological hazard
7	Geography	ASHGS050: Geographical Inquiry Skill; Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing	Represent spatial distribution of different types of geographical phenomena by constructing appropriate maps at different scales that conform to cartographic conventions, using spatial technologies as appropriate
7	Geography	ACHGS053: Geographical Inquiry and Skills; Communicating	Present findings, arguments and ideas in a range of communication forms selected to suit a particular audience and purpose; using geographical terminology and digital technologies as appropriate
7-8	Health & Physical Education	ACPPS072: Personal, Social and Community Health; Being healthy, safe and active	Practise and apply strategies to seek help for themselves or others
7-8	Health & Physical Education	ACPPS073: Personal, Social and Community Health; Being healthy, safe and active	Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing
7-8	Health & Physical Education	ACPPS077: Personal, Social and Community Health; Contributing to healthy and active communities	Plan and use health practices, behaviours and resources to enhance health, safety and wellbeing of their communities
8	Science	ACSHE135: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use and influence of science	Solutions to contemporary issues that are found using science and technology, may impact on other areas of society and may involve ethical considerations
8	Science	ACSHE136: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use & influence of science	People use science understanding and skills in their occupations and these have influenced the development of practices in areas of human activity
8	Geography	ACHGK050: Knowledge & Understanding; Landforms and landscapes	Causes, impacts and responses to geomorphological hazards
8	Geography	ACHGK051: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding Unit 1: Landforms and landscapes	Human causes and effects of landscape degradation
8	Geography	ACHGK053: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding Unit 1: Landforms and landscapes	Causes, impacts and responses to a geomorphological hazard
8	Geography	ACHGK059: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding Unit 2: Changing nations	Management and planning of Australia's urban future
9	Geography	ACHGK063: Geographical knowledge & Understanding Unit 1: Biomes and food security	Challenges to food production, including land and water degradation, shortage of fresh water, competing land uses, and climate change, for Australia and other areas of the world

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9	Science	ACSHE160: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use and influence of science	People use scientific knowledge to evaluate whether they accept claims, explanations or predictions, and advances in science can affect people's lives, including generating new career opportunities
9	Science	ACSHE160: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use and influence of science	People use scientific knowledge to evaluate whether they accept claims, explanations or predictions, and advances in science can affect people's lives, including generating new career opportunities
9	Science	ACSSU180: Science Understanding; Earth & Space Sciences	The theory of plate tectonics explains global patterns of geological activity and continental movement
9-10	Health & Physical Education	ACPPS092: Personal, Social and Community Health; Being healthy, safe and active	Propose, practise and evaluate responses in situations where external influences may impact on their ability to make healthy and safe choices
9-10	Health & Physical Education	ACPPS096: Personal, Social and Community Health; Contributing to healthy and active communities	Plan, implement and critique strategies to enhance health, safety and wellbeing of their communities
10	Science	ACSHE191: Science as a Human Endeavour; Nature and development of science	Scientific understanding, including models and theories, is contestable and is refined over time through a process of review by the scientific community
10	Science	ACSHE230: Science as a Human Endeavour; Use and influence of science	Value and needs of contemporary society can influence the focus of scientific research
10	Geography	ACHGK070: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding Unit 1: Environmental change and management	Human-induced environmental changes that challenge sustainability
10	Geography	ACHGK073: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding Unit 1: Environmental change and management	The application of systems thinking to understanding the causes and likely consequences of the environmental change being investigated
10	Geography	ACHGK074: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding Unit 1: Environmental change and management	The application of geographical concepts and methods to the management of the environmental change being investigated