

# Tomorrow World! Year 6

A disaster is a 'sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.' Disasters on Earth may be as a result of human or natural causes, although some may be caused by both.

## Human-Caused Disasters

-Examples include pollution, deforestation and use of the Earth's resources.

## Natural Disasters

-Examples include volcanoes, earthquakes and extreme weather.



## Natural Disasters

Natural disasters are the consequence of the natural processes of Earth. Natural disasters may cause loss of life, property damage, and economical/social problems. Human activity is likely to be at least partially responsible for some 'natural' disasters.

### Earthquakes



### Volcanic eruptions



Earthquakes happen when two large pieces of the Earth's crust (tectonic plates) slip suddenly. This causes shock waves to the surface of the Earth. When earthquakes take place underneath or near water, they may trigger tsunamis – (huge waves). Both can cause huge human & environmental damage.

Volcanic eruptions occur when lava, rock fragments, hot vapour and gas are released through a volcano from beneath the Earth's surface. During eruptions, damage and death is caused by lava flows, mudslides and avalanches.

## Vocabulary

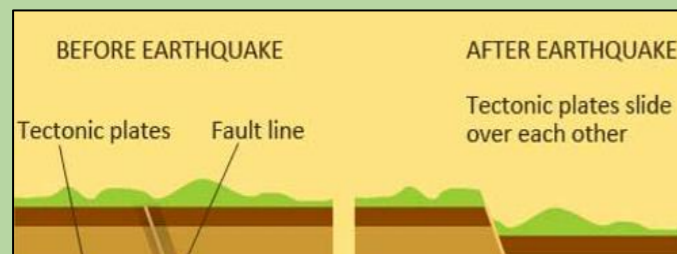
Mt. St Helens  
Mt Vesuvius  
Pompeii  
Mt. Etna  
Mantle  
Earthquake  
Tectonic  
Aftershock  
Summit  
Igneous  
Core  
Tremor  
Crust

## Earthquakes

-The Earth's crust is made up of many moving sheets of rocks, called tectonic plates.

-The places where these plates meet are called fault lines. As they rub past each other, pressure can cause the plates to suddenly slip.

-This releases a large amount of energy and creates seismic waves that travel through the Earth. The waves are felt most strongly in close proximity to where the event takes place – an earthquake.



## Volcanoes

-As tectonic plates pull apart or are pushed underneath one another, magma is melted.

-Melted magma rises to the surface because it is lighter than rock.

-If the magma rises quickly or is too thick, gas cannot easily escape. This builds pressure.

-Magma can therefore erupt as lava through openings in the Earth's crust (volcanoes).

