



# **A study of natural disasters and extreme weather**

A geographical topic with a focus on physical geography, learning about earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and different types of extreme weathers.



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## Overview of theme:

This unit has a geographical emphasis, especially on physical geography. The children will learn about a variety of natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. This study will also include learning about extreme weather conditions as well as the causes and the effects.

This study will build on their previous learning in Year 3, when the children learnt about the Arctic and Antarctic, by enhancing their locational and place knowledge by using maps, and atlases to locate countries and describe features studied. Next year the children will continue to develop their geographical skills by exploring trade links between countries and human land use.

The main intent of this unit is to develop an understanding of what causes natural disasters, including extreme weather conditions and the effect this has.

This unit will be implemented in a variety of ways, including practical activities and a sequence of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

By the end of the topic, the children will have a clear understanding of different natural disasters, what causes them and the effect they have on the environment, as well as humans and animals. The children will also have a clear understanding of different types of extreme weather conditions, how they come about, how they are detected and precautions that can be taken to minimise damage. Children will also have an increased knowledge of locations and places using a variety of sources

**Planned visits and school workshops:** Trip to the Tate Gallery and Science Museum

**Homework linked to theme:**

- Present your own weather forecast, or do some research into a country, like Nepal, which has had a natural disaster.
- Can you fill in the countries on a blank map of the world?
- Watch the weather forecast and discuss the different symbols and patterns.
- Look at different kinds of maps together – notice continents, countries and capital cities.
- Visit the Science Museum in London to learn more about extreme weather and natural disasters.
- Use the Plane Finder app to locate countries – can you find the cities that the planes flying over us are going to?

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**Curriculum over for the half-term and cross-curricular links to the main theme:**

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**Subject focus of the theme: Geography**

**Core text: Iron Man**

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<b>English</b>	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes Information books, descriptions & newspapers,
<b>Mathematics</b>	Multiplication & Division, Fractions, Measurement: Time & Area
<b>Science</b>	Changing states Find out where water comes from and look at rain and how to prevent icy roads.
<b>Art and design</b>	Seascape collages, paint to create volcanoes & charcoal to draw Iron Man
<b>Computing</b>	Excel to plot temperatures and create a range of graphs Create a quiz using the Kahoot program
<b>Geography</b>	Locate and name countries and continents that have a higher chance of natural disasters and find out why this is the case. Capital cities and continents. Linking to our Romans topic, children will learn about Vesuvius and Pompeii. Weather forecasts and drama linking to the Iron Man book
<b>PE</b>	This term, the children will be focusing on dribbling, defending and attacking and shooting within the sports of basketball and dodge-ball. They will also be developing movement and balance skills through gymnastics.
<b>RE</b>	Our focus this half term will be on Christianity, special places, the bible and the ten commandments.
<b>Music</b>	Compositions inspired by weather

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## Sequence and structure to curriculum theme

<b>1. Volcanoes!</b>	Using Discovery Virtual Reality children will explore and understand volcanos. Vesuvius and Pompeii – our new topic starts by finishing off our old topic. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius during the Roman time will form our basis of how volcanic eruptions occur. We will learn about Pompeii and how it was preserved by the lava and ash of Vesuvius.
<b>2. Earthquakes.</b>	Earthquakes – we will look at Nepal and other countries affected by earthquakes as well as learning how and why earthquakes happen.
<b>3. Comparison of landscapes.</b>	Mountains and Valleys – we will compare London to Wales and look at some of the world's tallest mountains and most beautiful landscapes.
<b>4. Tornadoes, storms and more!</b>	Extreme Weather – we will look at weather forecasts from around the world and why these differ. During this we will brush up on our geography skills and map work. We will also use the school weather station to compare our weather to weather around the world.
<b>5. Tsunamis around the world.</b>	Tsunamis and Tornadoes – we will look at what these are and how they happen. We will also look at countries that are affected by them and the safety precautions they put in place.

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## Children's learning

The children will find out about volcanoes, earthquakes, mountains and valleys, tsunamis and tornadoes by looking at countries affected by these such as Italy (Pompeii) and Nepal. We will also revise countries, continents and capital cities around the world.

By the end of this theme the children will:

- Understand how volcanic eruptions occur.
- Know that certain countries are more prone to extreme natural occurrences
- Will know key cities, countries and mountains across the world.
  
- They will also understand the following vocabulary: extreme weather, volcano, tsunami, tornado, earthquake, mountain ranges