

Earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and hurricanes! Natural hazards come in all shapes and sizes and are a constant danger around the world. What causes them to happen? What can we do to understand them better? And most importantly....

Can we mitigate against their potentially devastating effects?

During this workshop pupils will investigate a number of natural hazards, look at how we cope with them and delve into what could be the biggest natural disaster ever.

With quiz questions designed to spark debate, pupils learn about recent natural disasters and look into what caused them and the effects they had on both the population and the environment. Following this pupils get the chance to examine the issues that need to be considered in countries that face the threat of a natural disaster – should we focus on monitoring them? Or on understanding them? Or on trying to mitigate against their effects? To finish the workshop pupils will investigate the possible destructive consequences of an eruption of the Yellowstone super-volcano! How do communities living at varying distances from the super-volcano survive....or do they?

This workshop enables pupils to:

Develop curiosity and understanding of the environment and my place in the living, material and physical world.
Demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of the big ideas and concepts of the sciences.
Develop skills in the accurate use of scientific inquiry and investigation using practical techniques.
Recognise the impact the sciences make on their life, the lives of others, the environment and on society.
Recognise the role of creativity and inventiveness in the development of the sciences.
Develop as a scientifically-literate citizen with a lifelong interest in the sciences.
Establish a foundation for more advanced learning and future careers in the sciences and the technologies.
Apply skills and understanding creatively and logically to solve problems, within a variety of contexts.
Communicate, collaborate and build relationships.

Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes:

Social Studies – People place and environment

I can identify the possible consequences of an environmental issue and make informed suggestions about ways to manage the impact. SOC 3-08a.

I can investigate the relationship between climate and weather to be able to understand the causes of weather patterns within a selected climate zone. SOC 3-12a.

Having considered responses to a recent international crisis, I can contribute to a discussion of the effectiveness of the responses. SOC 3-19b.

Science – Topical Science

Through research and discussion, I have contributed to evaluations of media items with regard to scientific content and ethical implications. SCN 3-20b.

Numeracy and Mathematics – Information handling

I can find the probability of a simple event happening and explain why the consequences of the event, as well as its probability should be considered when making choices. MNU 3-22a.

Literacy and English – Listening and talking

When I engage with others, I can make a relevant contribution, encourage others to contribute and acknowledge that they have the right to hold a different opinion.

I can respond in ways appropriate to my role and use contributions to reflect on, clarify or adapt thinking. LIT 3-02a.