

Natural disasters - WHY? - Ganaelle - 1S

A natural disaster is a natural event coming from natural processes of the Earth. Those natural disasters cause a lot of damage: destruction of numerous buildings (houses, schools...), cause heavy casualties and leave big economic damage for the country that suffers from those geological processes. They are a lot of different natural disasters and are all caused by natural processes referring to geology (earthquakes), weather (meteorological disasters as tornados, cyclones...).

The most natural disasters known are:

- Earthquakes (in Japan: 2011, magnitude between 9.0 and 9.3; in Haiti: 2010, magnitude 7.2)
- Hurricanes (Hurricane Katrina: 2005 that occurred in the United States)
- Floods (Haiti: caused by hurricanes)
- Tornados (United States : 2011)
- Volcanic eruptions

***Earthquakes:** Earthquakes come from a problem with the tectonic plate which go side away, up or down. There are four different earthquakes: tectonic earthquakes, volcanic earthquake, collapse earthquake and explosion earthquake. Earthquakes provoke tremors feel by the humans. There are a lot of earthquakes that are not felt by the humans because the magnitude is too low. But for those that the magnitude is high are felt by the humans and can destroy a lot of buildings and cause many casualties.



***Hurricanes:** Hurricanes with strong winds are very violent because they can provoke a tidal wave with waves that can reach 12 meters high. Strong winds with high speed are destructive: trees can fall down and roofs can be torn off. Hurricanes come from the accumulation of humidity, of heat and no wind in altitude.

***Floods:** Floods are caused by a surplus of water due to spring tide for example. In this case, rivers, lakes and seas can overflow. It can also be caused by too much rain.



***Tornados:** Tornados appear when hot air from low altitudes meets cold air from high altitudes. The reaction between those two different types of air produce a big and violent storm. Tornados are very violent and destroy everything on their way.

***Volcanic eruptions:** Volcanic eruptions appear when tectonic plate goes side away, up or down. It causes lava and gas expulsion. The ashes falling after a volcanic eruption are very dangerous and can cause suffocations of peoples and in consequence casualties.