

How many types of disasters are there?

In this unit of work the children will study different major disasters that have happened over the world in the 20th century. The three different types of disasters; natural, manmade and hybrid will be introduced and different disasters looked at in detail.

In this unit children will:

- Have the opportunity to learn about different disasters that have happened across the world in the 20th century.
- Look at different disasters and what happened before, during and after these tragedies.
- Understand the difference between natural, man-made and hybrid disasters and how they are caused.
- Learn about disasters including Chernobyl, Hurricane Katrina, The Great London Smog, Guiya dump in China and Great Storm of 1987. These are all very different disasters but will allow the children to delve into different problems that have occurred across the world.
- Understand what happened prior to Chernobyl and the build-up the main event.
- How the world is supported after disasters have occurred and how people get their lives back together.

Prior Learning

Year 1 – timelines

Year 2 – The Great Fire of London & Significant people in the past

Year 6 - Hull

Cross Curricular Links

Literacy – persuasive writing

Science – technical vocabulary

Key Vocabulary

disaster – a sudden accident or natural problem that causes great damage.

natural – derived from nature – something not caused by mankind.

man-made – created by humans/mankind.

hybrid – a man-made disaster that unleashes natural problems as a result.

nuclear disaster – an event that has led to significant consequences through nuclear or radiation.

accident - an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly.

inadequately – lacking the quality or quantity required, insufficient for a purpose.

speculation – the forming of a theory, usually without any evidence.

Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale – is a scale which natural disasters such as hurricanes are measured on. The wind is given a number between 1-5, 5 being the highest, declaring the wind catastrophic.

E-waste – electronic waste such as old mobile phones, laptops etc.

Key Knowledge

- A **natural disaster** can happen anywhere in the world and at any time. **Natural** means that these **disasters** happen on their own or usually because of a force of nature.
- A **man-made disaster** is at the fault of a person or group of people, usually caused by carelessness.
- **Chernobyl** was a large **man-made disaster** which still causes a lot of **speculation** today.
- The **Chernobyl** accident in 1986 was the result of a flawed reactor design that was operated with **inadequately** trained personnel. The resulting steam explosion and fires released at least 5% of the radioactive reactor core into the environment, with the deposition of radioactive materials in many parts of Europe.
- **Hurricane Katrina** was a **category five** tropical cyclone that occurred in August 2005.
- The **Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale** puts natural weather disasters into different categories depending on their strength.
- The **Great Storm of 1987** caused mass destruction however technically was not a **hurricane**. It had hurricane strengths of 100mph but missed out on the classification due to technicality.
- The **Great Storm** caused more **destruction** than the World War II Blitz, however the storm led to improvements in weather predictions.



- **Guiyu** in Guangdong Province, **China**, is widely perceived as the largest electronic waste site in the world. In 2005, there were 60,000 e-waste workers in **Guiyu** who processed the more than 100 truckloads that were transported to the 52-square-kilometre area every day.
- The dump made a lot of people ill however has been cleaned up over the years and is a lot better today.

Key Questions

- What happened to people's houses in Chernobyl?
- How many people died during Hurricane Katrina?
- Do people have to evacuate their homes during every disaster?
- What is the world's largest natural disaster?
- Have people been in trouble for causing world disasters?