

Natural Disasters

Discussion Topic Pack

A warm-up, vocabulary, and graded discussion questions for talking about **Natural Disasters**.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

Warm-up: What's the first word that comes to mind when you hear "natural disaster"?

1 · Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Example
earthquake	A sudden shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust.	<i>The earthquake damaged several buildings in the city centre.</i>
tsunami	A large sea wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption.	<i>A tsunami warning was issued after the offshore quake.</i>
aftershock	A smaller earthquake that follows the main shock.	<i>Residents stayed awake all night because of the aftershock.</i>
evacuation	The organized removal of people from a dangerous area.	<i>The evacuation of the coastal village was completed within two hours.</i>
disaster relief	Assistance provided to people affected by a disaster.	<i>International disaster relief teams arrived with food and medical supplies.</i>
resilient	Able to recover quickly from difficulties.	<i>The community proved resilient, rebuilding homes within months.</i>
mitigation	Actions taken to reduce the severity of something.	<i>Tree planting is part of flood mitigation strategies.</i>
early warning system	A network that detects hazards and alerts people in advance.	<i>The early warning system gave residents enough time to seek shelter.</i>

2 · Discussion Questions

Take turns asking and answering — try to give a full answer, not just yes or no.

- 1 Have you ever experienced a natural disaster? Describe what happened.
- 2 Which type of natural disaster do you think is most common in your country?
- 3 How do you usually prepare for a possible natural disaster at home?
- 4 What was the most memorable news report you saw about a natural disaster?
- 5 In your opinion, how effective are government evacuation plans in your area?
- 6 What role do community volunteers play during disaster relief efforts?
- 7 How can individuals contribute to disaster mitigation in everyday life?
- 8 Do you think climate change is increasing the frequency of natural disasters? Why or why not?
- 9 Should wealthy nations be obligated to help poorer countries recover from natural disasters? Discuss.
- 10 Imagine you are a policy maker: what long-term strategies would you implement to make societies more resilient to natural disasters?

3 · Extension

Try this: Role-play a meeting between a city mayor and a disaster-relief coordinator planning the evacuation of a coastal town threatened by an approaching tsunami.