

NATURAL DISASTERS

natural hazards that lead to loss



Land Movement



Weather



Water



Fire



Health & Disease

PICTURE & MATCHING CARDS

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avalanche

Avalanches occur when massive slabs of snow break loose from a mountainside and shatter as they race downhill. These moving masses can reach speeds of 80 miles (130 kilometers) per hour within about five seconds.



earthquake

An earthquake is a sudden shake of the Earth's crust. Earthquakes by themselves rarely kill people - it is usually the events that they trigger, such as building collapse, fires, tsunamis and volcanoes, that are actually the disaster.



avalanche



earthquake

Natural Disasters Vocabulary (page 1 of 4)

Avalanches occur when massive slabs of snow break loose from a mountainside and shatter like broken glass as they race downhill. These moving masses can reach speeds of 80 miles (130 kilometers) per hour within about five seconds.

A **blizzard** is a severe winter storm with low temperatures, strong winds, and heavy blowing snow.

Cyclone, hurricane, and typhoon are different names for storms with spiraling winds of 74 miles per hour or more that form over the oceans.

A **drought** is a period of months or years when a region has no rain.

An **earthquake** is a sudden shake of the Earth's crust. Earthquakes by themselves rarely kill people - it is usually the events that they trigger, such as building collapse, fires, tsunamis and volcanoes, that are actually the disaster.

Natural Disasters Vocabulary (page 2 of 4)

An **epidemic** (from Greek *epi-* upon + *demos* people) occurs when new cases of a disease are greater than what is "expected." The disease isn't always contagious - examples include cancer or heart disease.

A **famine** is a scarcity of food that results in malnutrition, starvation, epidemic, and increased death rates. Famines can be caused by a combination of economic, political, and environmental factors.

A **flood** is an overflow of water that submerges land.

Hailstorms are storms with hail. Hailstones are rain drops that have formed together into ice lumps 5 mm–50 mm in diameter, or even larger. A hailstorm can injure people and animals, and destroy crops, gardens, and property.

A **heat wave** is a long period of very hot weather. Severe heat waves have caused crop failures, deaths, and power outages.

fire

nail

heat

land

wave

wild

erupt

flood

land

quake

storm

water

fire

hail

heat

land

wave

wild

erupt

flood

tsunami

quake

storm

water

fire

hail

heat

land

wave

wild

erupt

flood

tahar

quake

storm

water

LINKS

[National Geographic](#)

Interactive: [Launch an Avalanche](#)

Video: [Avalanches](#)

[Earthquake video](#) and [another](#) one

[Landslides](#) video

Interactive: Build a [volcano](#)

[Another](#) build your own volcano

[Video](#) of a volcano erupting

[Video](#) of scientists descending into a volcano

Learn about volcanoes at [Yellowstone](#)

Volcano [coloring](#) page

Volcano theme [paper](#)

Volcano coloring [page](#)

[Volcano](#) coloring page

Pictures of [hail](#) and hail damage

Learn more about [tornadoes](#).

VOCABULARY ANSWER KEY

LAND & WATER

1. E
2. I
3. G
4. F
5. A
6. H
7. B
8. C
9. D

WEATHER, FIRE, HEALTH & DISEASE

1. F
2. D
3. I
4. A
5. E
6. B
7. H
8. C
9. G