

HAITI

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Haiti Earthquake and Natural Disasters

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to introduce students to the topic of natural disasters, evaluating their prior knowledge before going further into details of the Haiti earthquake.
- **Instructional method(s):** group work, class discussion
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Teacher asks for verbal suggestions and records answers around the central title.
 - Students respond to the picture gallery in written language rather than verbal.
- **Estimated time:** 30 - 45 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Write the central title “NATURAL DISASTER”, on chart paper.
 2. Divide the class into pairs and give each pair two sticky notes.
 3. Ask each pair to discuss this topic and write two things they know about natural disasters on their sticky notes.
 4. When this is complete, ask each pair to place their sticky notes on the chart paper around the central title.
 5. Discuss similarities, differences, and common themes found on the display.
 6. Following this introduction, lead a brainstorm around natural disasters using the following suggested questions:
 - What is a natural disaster?
 - What makes a country vulnerable to the effects of a natural disaster (e.g. poor infrastructure, poverty, lack of resources etc.)? Why?
 - What are the consequences of a natural disaster?
 - What impact do they have on the people in the country affected?
 - What are the government’s responsibilities at the time of a natural disaster?
 - What happens to the structures and resources of a country at the time of a natural disaster?
 - What responsibilities does the rest of the world have towards a country that has just experienced a natural disaster? What can other countries do to help?
 7. Ask students what type of natural disaster occurred in Haiti in January 2010? What were the effects of this natural disaster?
 8. Show students the series of pictures from Free The Children’s [Haiti Photo Gallery](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/photo-gallery/) - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/photo-gallery/>
 9. While looking at each picture, ask the students to identify any observational questions (e.g. what’s happening? how are people being affected?) and big picture questions (e.g. causes and solutions to what is happening in the photograph) about the picture.
 10. Ask students to select one picture from the montage and write a reflection about the picture identifying observational and big picture facts, as well as their personal reaction to the events in the photograph.
 11. When this is complete, help students to realize that solutions are at our fingertips, it’s just a matter of offering our support and working together to make them happen.