

HAITI

SECONDARY LEVEL

Natural Disaster Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is for students to learn the natural causes of earthquakes, before discussing the damages that occur and the ability or inability to prepare for such a disaster.
- **Instructional method(s):** group discussion, video demonstration, photograph demonstration, independent work.
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Provide students with a script of the video content.
 - Students perform independent research on earthquakes and present their findings.
- **Estimated time:** 20 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Ask students what they know about earthquakes.
 2. Learn about earthquakes through this video by National Geographic Earthquakes 101 - <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/environment/environment-natural-disasters/earthquakes/earthquake-101.html>
 3. After viewing the short video, have students define the following terms: epicenter, fault, hypocenter, magnitude, plates, plate tectonics, seismic shock waves, and Richter scale.
 4. Address the definitions as a class and continue this discussion using the following suggested questions:
 - What is the link between causes and location of major earthquakes?
 - Where have earthquakes happened in the past? Record a list on the board.
 - In these places where earthquakes have occurred, why are the effects worse in some locations than in others? (e.g. Haiti versus Chile).
 - What can be done in a country to prepare for an earthquake and ensure there is minimal damage?
 - What steps can individuals take to prepare for an earthquake?
 5. Ask students what the severity was of the earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010? What were the effects of this natural disaster?
 6. 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/>
 7. Allow students to view each picture in silence for thirty seconds before moving onto the next picture.
 8. As a class, choose one photograph. Ask students to volunteer observational questions about the picture on the white board (e.g. what is happening? How is it affecting people lives?, etc.), recording their answers on the white board.
 9. Then brainstorm big picture questions (about the causes and solutions to what is happening in the photograph) and write these on the white board in a different colour (e.g. what caused the disaster? Why is it so devastating? What can the world do about it?).
 10. Independently, ask students to write a reflection around the questions written on the board and the impact of the Haiti earthquake.