

Natural Disasters

Approach: One to one

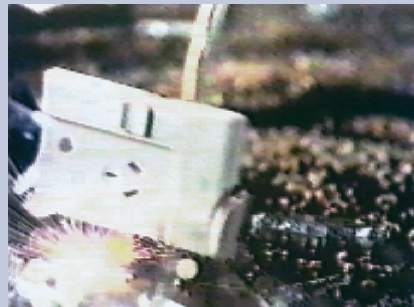
Level: Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Recognising earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and explaining the likely causes.

Resources: Video showing earthquake and volcanic eruption.

Questions/instructions:

The news on TV often shows natural disasters that have happened around the world. We're going to watch a video that shows some natural disasters then I will ask you some questions.



Show video part 1.

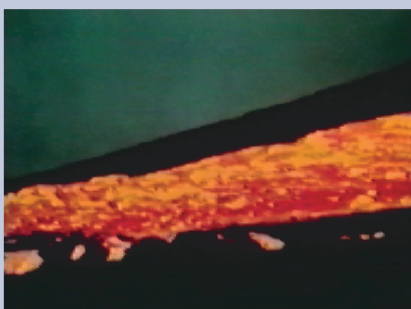
1. What name do we give to an event like this?
earthquake
- If student doesn't know, tell them it is an earthquake.**
2. Try to tell me what might have caused this to happen.

Prompt: What causes an earthquake to happen?

Tectonic plate movement, pressure build up, eventual sudden movement to release pressure.

| | % responses | |
|---|-------------|----|
| | y4 | y8 |
| good understanding: using technical terms | 8 | 26 |
| no technical terms | 10 | 19 |
| vague notion of earth movement | 20 | 20 |
| technical terms, but weak understanding | 3 | 7 |

| % responses | |
|-------------|-----|
| y4 | y8 |
| 89 | 100 |



4. Try to explain to me what might have caused this to happen?

Prompt: What causes a volcano to happen?

Magma pressure build-up, plus earth/plate movement creating pathway for escape.

| | % responses | |
|---|-------------|----|
| | y4 | y8 |
| good understanding of both aspects | 1 | 6 |
| good understanding of one aspect or vague understanding of both | 15 | 32 |
| vague understanding of one aspect | 42 | 33 |

| % responses | |
|-------------|----|
| y4 | y8 |
| 46 | 61 |
| 49 | 47 |

Show video part 2.

3. What name do we give to something like this? **volcanic eruption or eruption**
volcano

If student doesn't know, tell them it is a volcano erupting.

Commentary:

Most year 4 and year 8 students identified the phenomena successfully. Year 8 students were more successful than year 4 students in explaining the phenomena, but less than half had a reasonably good understanding.