



# 3 Studies Weekly

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY

# Natural Disasters: What and Where?



**Avalanche**



**River Flooding**



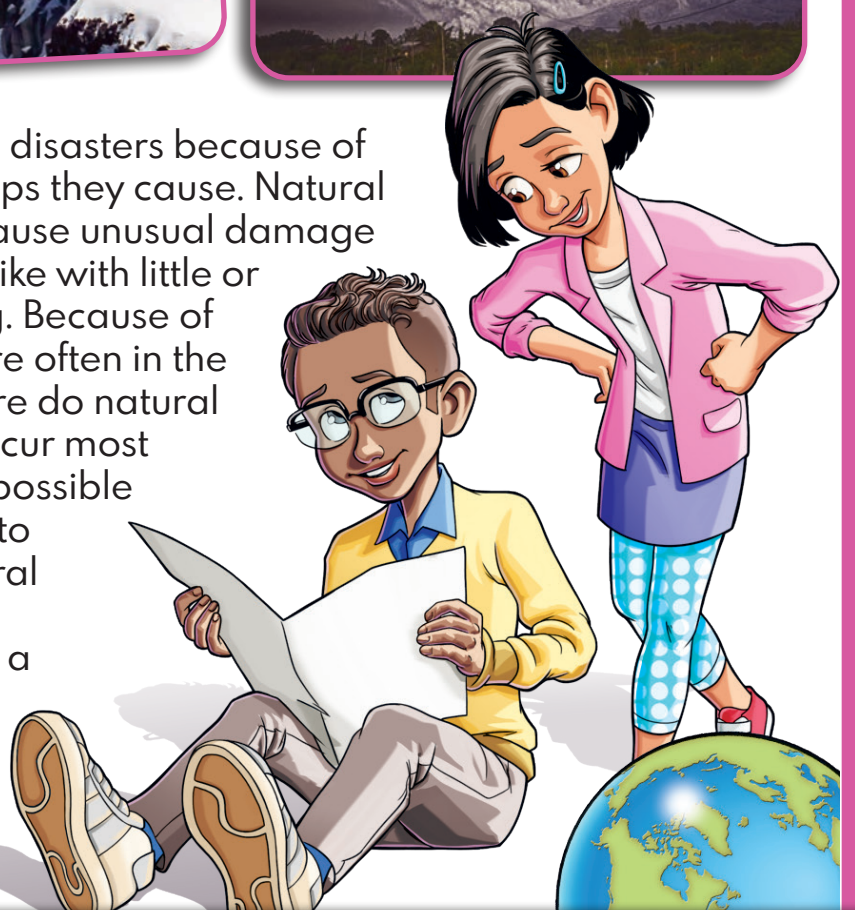
**Volcano**

Natural disasters. People make movies about them. Others write books about them. But what is a natural disaster? Can natural disasters be prevented?

Sometimes there are natural events that happen in the world. These events cause a negative outcome on humans and wildlife. This negative effect is what we call a natural disaster. These natural hazards can be devastating like a tornado, a wildfire, avalanches, an erupting volcano or an earthquake. Flooding and droughts are also

considered disasters because of the hardships they cause. Natural disasters cause unusual damage and can strike with little or no warning. Because of this, they are often in the news. Where do natural hazards occur most often? Is it possible for people to avoid natural disasters?

Let's take a trip around the Earth and see.



### INQUIRY QUESTION

**Where do Natural Disasters Occur?**



# Natural Disasters: What and Where?

## Natural Disasters in the The Western Hemisphere

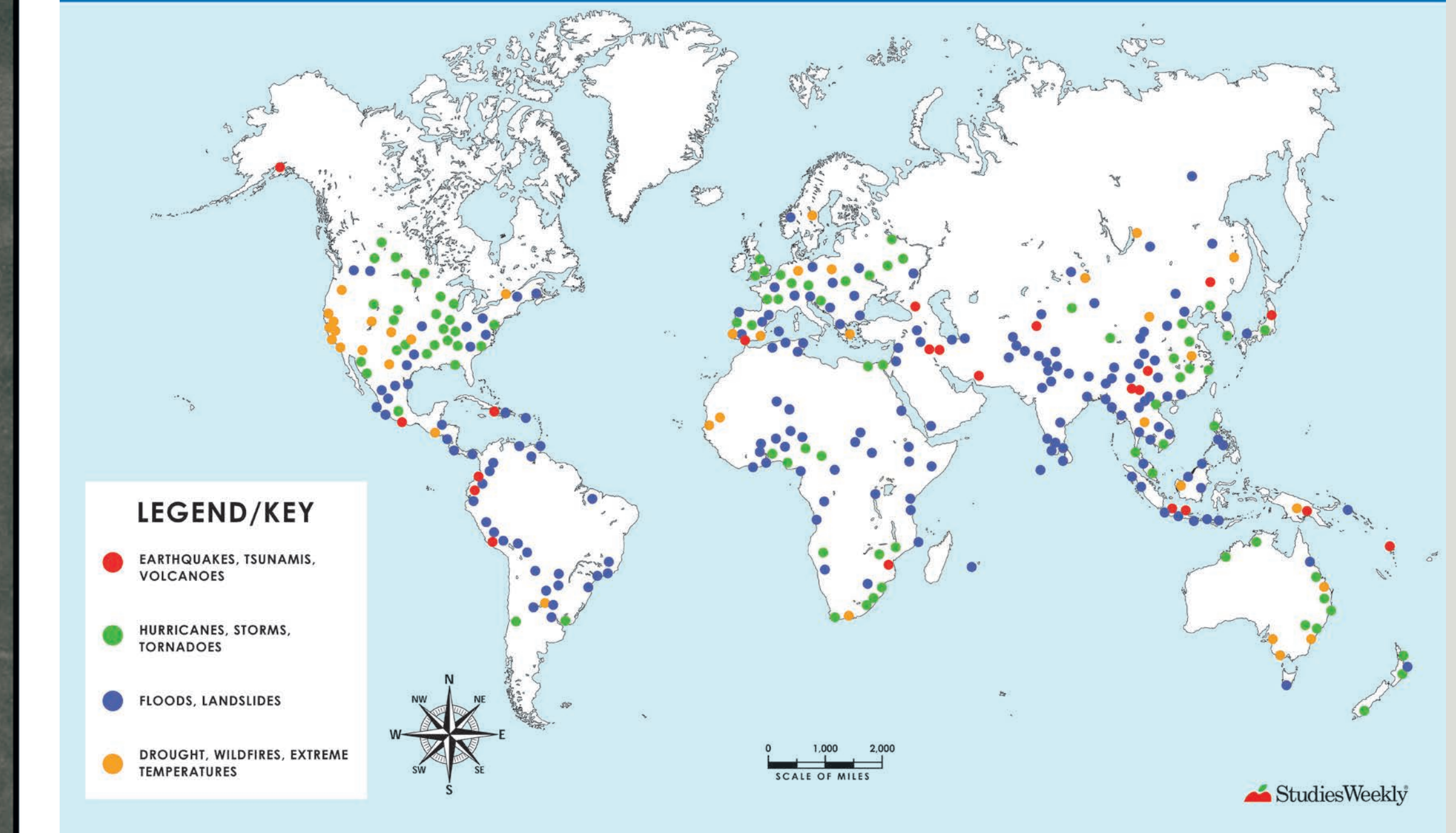
Hurricanes are giant, spinning storms that form over the warm ocean water. They are found in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. The strength of a hurricane depends on temperature, wind, and rainfall. Strong hurricanes can destroy buildings. They flood cities along the coast.

Tornadoes form over land when warm, moist air meets cool, dry air. Tornado winds can destroy everything in their pathway.

Earthquakes occur in western North America along fault lines near the Rocky Mountains. There are big cities in these areas. Although the buildings and homes are built to stay strong during earthquakes, damage to property and people still occurs.

South America has a history of flooding, fires, and earthquakes. Some places in South America don't receive a lot of rain. This makes it hard for plants to grow and people to live there. When lightning strikes, fires are common. In the regions with lots of rain, there can be flooding. A long fault line can be found along the western coast of South America. Earthquakes are more likely to occur along the coast.

## WORLD HAZARDS MAP (2018)



TORNADO

EARTHQUAKE

HURRICANE

WILDFIRE

## Natural Disasters in the The Eastern Hemisphere

Most rain in Asia falls on the land closest to the Indian and Pacific Oceans. South Asia and East Asia are very wet. These regions often have floods caused by monsoons and rainstorms. Other parts of Asia are very dry, and drought is a serious problem.

Oceania experiences cyclones because of its location in the ocean. Cyclones are storms like hurricanes. They often cause flooding and severe wind damage.

Many islands in Oceania are part of the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is a zone in the Pacific Ocean where plates push against each other. This creates fault lines. Earthquakes and volcanoes often occur along these fault lines. Many of the islands in Oceania were formed by volcanic activity near these fault lines. Earthquakes can happen in the ocean. These earthquakes can cause giant waves called tsunamis. Tsunamis can destroy buildings and flood land with saltwater.

DROUGHT

FLOOD

VOLCANO



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# North American Disasters

Natural disasters are caused by the physical characteristics and climate of a place. Different kinds of natural disasters happen in North America. Some are earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanos, hurricanes, storms, and tornadoes. Other natural disasters are floods, landslides, droughts, wildfires, and extreme temperatures. Look at the map. Brainstorm some ideas of what you noticed. Where do natural disasters happen in North America? What patterns can you see? Write a summary on a separate sheet of paper or use your online annotation tool.



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## NORTH AMERICA HAZARDS MAP (2018)

