



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
2007 Volume IV: The Science of Natural Disasters

Myths and Legends on Natural Disasters: Making Sense of Our World

Guide for Curriculum Unit 07.04.13
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What is the definition of a natural disaster? What is the relationship between Earth's workings and natural disasters? What are the direct and indirect environmental, economic, and human impacts of these severe weather and dynamic patterns on habitats and ecosystems? How have we explained through the ages the effects that natural disasters have on communities and society? These are some of the central questions that frame this curricular unit.

This unit provides the classroom teacher with some model activities that integrate the TESOL and content standards in the four language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing, as the students explore the theme of natural disasters and related myths. Students then are asked to explore some first- and second-hand accounts of major natural disasters affecting the New England states such as the hurricane of 1938, the blizzard of 1888, or the year without a summer (1816).

A list of student, teacher, and electronic resources, evaluation rubrics, extension activities and standards is provided for the implementation of the unit.

(Recommended for Integrated Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and ESL, grades 4-6.)

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