

Earthquake Alert!

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest is designed to make students explore and witness the unique characteristics, the causes and consequences of earthquakes around our world. In this WebQuest, 6th grade students are going to: learn all the important descriptions of earthquakes; explore a list of famous earthquakes; write a narrative essay based on the topic and a chosen earthquake from the list.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Science

Keywords: earthquakes science narrative essay Chile Japan

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Introduction

Imagine you are deeply asleep, when all of the sudden you feel and see everything besides you moving rapidly. Your heartbeat increases and your nerves attack! Earthquake! Indeed, it is one of the most scariest experiences you may experience in a lifetime. An earthquake is a trembling or a shaking movement of the ground, caused by the slippage or rupture of a fault within the Earth's crust. Every year more than 3 million earthquakes take place, most of these unnoticed by humans. In contrast, a severe earthquake is the most catastrophic event of nature which can occur anywhere on the surface of our planet! Although we still can't predict when an earthquake will happen, we are going to learn much about them so we can prepare ourselves in case we experience one on our island. So students... drop and cover yourselves because the earthquake alert is ON. Prepare yourselves to learn more about historical earthquakes and be ready to create a narrative essay about one of them. But before doing that let's not forget to visit the links below titled 'What is an Earthquake?' and 'Earthquake Power Point Presentation', so you can developing your own ideas about the topic that will serve as our main focus.

Tasks

During this WebQuest lesson students complete the following tasks:- Read and explore websites, presentations, and videos that include and provide general information about earthquakes- Read a list of famous historical earthquakes that have occurred throughout time- Explore videos, articles, and images of each of these earthquakes- Choose one of the earthquakes mentioned in order to complete the written assignment- Write a narrative essay about the chosen historical earthquake

Process

You will be working on this on your own outside of the Science and English class. The information you gather will be used to compose a written work. Follow these steps in order to complete your final task which will be worth one grade. Remember you have been given two weeks to complete this special written work. Don't waste time!

Step 1 - First, you must visit the following link: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/eqscience.php>, and read everything that it is explained in the website. This website includes valuable general information of earthquakes that can help you gather information in order to complete the other steps.

Step 2 - Read the following list of famous historical earthquakes. Below each special earthquake you will find links of videos, newspaper articles, websites, or images that can help you learn more about each of them. Don't limit yourselves! You can broaden your knowledge by doing your own research or exploration using the internet as a resource.

2008 Sichuan Province China Earthquake Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBRrEl6DzEc> Article, Facts, and Pictures: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-223986842011> Great East Japan Earthquake also known as 'Tahoku Earthquake' Facts and Pictures: <http://www.livescience.com/39110-japan-2011-earthquake-tsunami-facts.html> Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_NgdVEKFpM2005 Kashmir Pakistan Earthquake Facts and Pictures: <http://www.krdf.net/earthquakes/kashmir-earthquake-facts-figures/> Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLez_ICeVlc2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake Article and Video: <http://www.britannica.com/blogs/2008/12/the-indian-ocean-earthquake-of-2004-will-history-repeat-itself/> Facts Summary: <http://iri.columbia.edu/~lareef/tsunami/2014> Chile's Earthquake Video and Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/01/world/americas/chile-earthquake/Pictures> and Article: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/02/us-chile-earthquake-idUSBREA3101G20140402>

Step 3 - Chose the earthquake that impressed you the most and that you choose to write about.

Step 4 - You are now going to complete a written narrative essay that will include an appropriate introduction paragraph, 3 body paragraphs, and a strong conclusion. It must include the following information: summary of basic general information and details about earthquakes; explain how do they occur; describe how earthquakes can damage property; explain the importance on being able to be prepared for their occurrence; state clearly the earthquake that you chose and mention the date and place of where it happened; include the effects of that earthquakes had on the geology of that area, death rates, and important details, etc. Each paragraph must include at least five sentences. If you have any doubt or any trouble remembering the guidelines previously studied to follow in writing an essay please visit the following link: <http://www.irsc.edu/uploadedFiles/Students/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingLab/E3-Narration-Essay-Guidelines.pdf>

Step 5 - Include the references you used in order to complete your written work.

Step 6 - Bring pictures that represent any of these

earthquakes in order to complete and create a collage of the topic in the classroom.

Evaluation

You will be evaluated with the rubric that will be included below. The rubric is specialized to evaluate written narrative essays. You can and will be penalized if you turn in your written work past your due date. Follow the instructions provided in the process explained before in this WebQuest. Good luck!

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
INTRODUCTION Background/ History Thesis Statement CONCLUSION	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends	Introduction creates interest. Thesis clearly states the position. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Well-developed introduction engages the reader and creates interest. contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position. Conclusion effectively wraps up and goes beyond restating the thesis.	25%
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs	Less than three main points, and/or poor development of ideas. The narrative is undeveloped, and tells rather than shows, the story.	Three or more main points are present. The narrative shows the events, but may lack details.	Three or more main points are related to the thesis, but one may lack details. The narrative shows events from the author's point of view using some details.	Well developed main points directly related to the thesis. Supporting examples are concrete and detailed. The narrative is developed with a consistent and effective point-of-view, showing the story in detail.	25%
ORGANIZATION Structure Transitions	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present.	Organization is clear. Transitions are present.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay.	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are mature and graceful.	25%
MECHANICS Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization.	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (7-8)	Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are generally correct, with few errors. (4-6)	Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are correct. (1-3)	25%
				Total Score	100%

Conclusion

An earthquake is one of the natural calamities. Its origin can be traced to the early days of earth formation. It is important for you as a student to learn more about it. Although earthquakes are part of the natural disasters that exist, it is important to recall the fact that they may occur in any part of the work at any time. We cannot be very certain or sure of the underground movements of the earth and its pressure points, which means that we cannot predict when we could experience or hear the earthquake alert. Since you have now created a written work that focused on the major earthquakes that have occurred throughout history you should be familiarize with the different types of faults, their movements, their causes, their possible effects, etc. Do you feel prepared for a major earthquake? What can you do to better prepare? At the top of this page you will see a picture that give great advices on what to do in case of the earthquake alarm goes ON.

Teacher Page

This webquest is designed to give students a greater depth of understanding in the subjects related to earthquakes. By

following the links, students will discover information related to the causes and impact of earthquakes in the world. It was also designed to create interest, provide opportunity to do guided internet research, and use technology skills. To continue integrating the writing process with the Natural Disaster's Unit you could start now using the following topics: Volcanoes, Hurricanes, Storms, etc.

Standards

Standards and Grade Level Expectations of Puerto Rico for the 6th Grade:

L/S.6.4 Applies correct language patterns to identify and organize events in a variety of narrative texts and text styles.

L/S.6.5 States the main idea or topic and important details from learned concepts or read alouds of a variety of expository texts; applies understanding to summarize the text using acquired vocabulary and appropriate language structure.

W.6.4 Identifies elements in descriptive, narrative, and expository forms of writing; uses a variety of sentence types and basic organizational patterns to construct narrative, descriptive, and expository paragraphs.

W.6.5 Uses the writing process; applies prewriting strategies to generate ideas; uses the dictionary as an aid in the writing process; identifies spelling, capitalization, and ending punctuation errors.

Credits

What is an Earthquake?

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/eqscience.php>

http://www.slideshare.net/rac_4ever/earthquake-presentation-2010904

Famous historical earthquakes:

-2008 Sichuan Province China Earthquake

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBRrEI6DzEc>

Article, Facts, and Pictures: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-22398684>

-2011 Great East Japan Earthquake also known as 'Tahoku Earthquake'

Facts and Pictures: <http://www.livescience.com/39110-japan-2011-earthquake-tsunami-facts.html>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_NgdVEKFpM

-2005 Kashmir Pakistan Earthquake

Facts and Pictures: <http://www.krdf.net/earthquakes/kashmir-earthquake-facts-figures/>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLz_ICeVlc

-2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake

Article and Video: <http://www.britannica.com/blogs/2008/12/the-indian-ocean-earthquake-of-2004-will-history-repeat-itself/>

Facts Summary: <http://iri.columbia.edu/~lareef/tsunami/>

2014 Chile's Earthquake

Video and Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/01/world/americas/chile-earthquake/>

Pictures and Article: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/02/us-chile-earthquake-idUSBREA3101G20140402>

Find out ways to be prepared in case of an earthquake:

<http://www.quakekare.com/emergency-preparedness/earthquake-preparedness.html>

http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_583_,00.html

<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/prepare/>

What are potential hazards after an earthquake?

- <http://www.leo.lehigh.edu/projects/seismic/danger.html>

- <http://www.geo.mtu.edu/UPSeis/hazards.html>

Other