

## 1Q: Catastrophic or Beneficial?

**WebQuest Description:** (Criterion C) How does the planet benefit from catastrophes?

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** Asteroid Catastrophe, Dinosaur Extinction, Ice Age, Mammals

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### Introduction

Can Catastrophes be Beneficial? Does this seem like an odd question? Does it seem impossible? You will try and figure that out with this WebQuest.

### Tasks

This task will require you to answer some simple questions on the surface, that require some not so simple answers. Question 1: How can something that seems like an absolute catastrophe to the Earth turn out to be something that is actually good and beneficial for it? Question 2: What are some examples you can think of where something that was catastrophic ended up being beneficial?

### Process

Part 1: Create a FOLDER on GOOGLE DRIVE and name it Catastrophes. Part 2: In this folder Create a DOCUMENT on GOOGLE DRIVE and name it CatastropheNotes. Answer the following in the document. (Use complete sentences.) Part 3: Watch the video below Rare Planet Part 4 and take notes that will help you identify at least TWO catastrophes that ended up being beneficial to the Earth, and the resulting benefit(s) of each catastrophe. Part 4: Using the notes from the video, in your own words write a summary explaining how each of these catastrophic events was beneficial.

Continue using the CatastropheNotes DOCUMENT on GOOGLE DRIVE for the following... Question 2: What are some examples you can think of where something that was catastrophic ended up being beneficial? Part 3: There are two examples below of natural catastrophes. Brainstorm and think about how these could be beneficial events. Write a summary for each one explaining how you think it could be beneficial. Example 1: Forest Fires Example 2: Flooding Part 4: Come up with your own example of a catastrophe that could be beneficial, and write a summary for it explaining how you think it would be beneficial.

For your FINAL PRODUCT, create a document in your CATASTROPHES folder on GOOGLE DOCS and name it CatastropheFinal include the following in the document 1. A summary for each of the catastrophic events from the video Rare Earth part 4, explaining how each was beneficial. 2. A summary explaining how you think forest fires could be beneficial. 3. A summary explaining how you think flooding could be beneficial. 4. A summary explaining how a catastrophe of your choice, would be beneficial. Use your CatastropheNotes to help with your final product. Be sure you SAVE BOTH documents CatastropheNotes and the CatastropheFinal in the CATASTROPHE folder.

Log in to KID BLOG and create a blog entry today, REFLECTING on what you learned. Keep the following in mind: What new things did you learn today? How did new knowledge create better understanding? What else do you want to know about this topic? What was difficult about today's work? What did you enjoy the most about today's work?

### Evaluation

Criterion C: Thinking critically Maximum: 8 You should be able to: analyze concepts, events, issues, models and/or arguments analyze and evaluate a range of sources in terms of origin and purpose, recognizing values and limitations recognize different perspectives and their implications make connections between information to make valid, well-supported arguments.

Category and Score	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	Score
You Should...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make a limited attempt to use some relevant terminology</li> <li>• demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of content and concepts through some descriptions and/or examples.</li> </ul>	use some humanities terminology appropriately • demonstrate knowledge and understanding of content and concepts through simple descriptions, explanations and examples.	use relevant humanities terminology accurately • demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of content and concepts through descriptions, explanations and examples.	use a range of humanities terminology accurately and appropriately • demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of content and concepts through thorough descriptions, explanations and examples	1-8
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

Thinking of "bad" things as "good" is not always an easy thing to do. Has this activity helped you to see things from different perspectives? When you approach an idea, a situation, or understanding be sure that you stop and evaluate the different ways of thinking about it.

## Teacher Page

Update Image

Mr. Beavers has worked at JT Moore Middle School through 2013. He joined the faculty of Hillsboro Comprehensive High School in the Fall of 2013 as a member of the Freshman Academy. Mr. Beavers is originally from Florence, Alabama where his family now lives, but grew up in Columbia, Tennessee graduating from Columbia Academy. He has lived in Nashville since 1986.

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**