

Year 3 Topic

Tremors



What happens when the Earth shakes? In this project, we'll find out about the dangerous world of natural disasters and their deadly effects.

This half term we'll gather rock samples, find out about different types of rocks and sort them according to their properties. By carrying out research, we'll investigate the Earth's layers and the location of volcanoes, discovering what causes them to erupt. We'll write powerful poetry inspired by our work on volcanoes. Working as archaeologists, we'll locate Mount Vesuvius on a map and find out what it was like to live in Pompeii during the eruption. Using our model making skills, we'll build earthquake-proof structures and test them out. We'll also use different modelling materials to create a volcano – watch out, it's going to blow!

At the end of the project, we'll create digital presentations, so you can see all of the exciting things we've learned about.

Help your child prepare for their project

Earthquakes and volcanoes are fascinating forces of nature. Why not research famous earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and plot the locations on a map? You could also hunt for rocks in your garden and sort them into groups by their appearance. Alternatively, you could build small structures from recycled materials and test them to see if they could withstand an earthquake!

What will you choose to do?

- With a parent or carer, create a mini erupting volcano using baking soda and vinegar. Wow! Take photographs to show how you made it.
- Design a poster to show a volcano's main features. Make sure you label its important parts.
- Research a volcanic eruption of your choice (not one you've studied in class). Produce a fact file about the eruption, including:
 - a. a sketch map to show its location
 - b. a description of the eruption
 - c. an explanation of why it erupted
 - d. details about the eruption's impact (both short and long-term).
- Find out why people still live close to volcanoes despite the risks. Think about soil, new land, building materials, mineral deposits, hot springs and spas, electricity and tourism. Be ready to share your ideas in class.
- What is the Richter scale?
- Imagine you have just survived an earthquake. Write a short story about what happened. Make sure you include factual information such as the earthquake's strength. Use geographical words in your account such as tremor, seismic isolator, aftershock and epicentre.
- Design an earthquake-proof house. How could you prevent the building from collapsing during an earthquake?
- Create a project dictionary that explains key volcano vocabulary in your own words.

