

Study Guide for Natural Disasters

Tornadoes

A tornado is a rotating funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour.

Tornado are sometimes called twisters.

Where is tornado alley?

What kind of weather does a tornado need to form?

Where is the safest place in your house (apt.) if there is a tornado warning?

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are sudden shakes that occur on earth. They are caused by the moving of tectonic plates. When these tectonic plates slide past each other, they tend to squeeze and cause tension. This tension is called an earthquake.

A tsunami is the result of an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption.

The intensity of an earthquake is measured on a Richter scale.

The most powerful earthquake ever recorded had a magnitude of 9.5 on the Richter scale and happened in Chile.

Hurricanes

A hurricane is an intense tropical storm with powerful winds and heavy rain.

Hurricanes usually form in tropical areas of the world.

Other names for a hurricane are typhoon, cyclone, and tropical storm.

Volcanoes

A volcano is a mountain that opens downward into a pool of molten rock below the surface of the earth.

In an eruption, gases and rock shoot up through the opening and spill over or fill the air with lava fragments.

What is the difference between an active, dormant and extinct volcano?