

Natural Disasters and Protecting Our Earth

Grade 4

Science

Nonfiction

Earth day Theme

~135 words

NGSS.4-ESS3-2

Name: _____ Date: _____

▣ READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.

Natural disasters are powerful events that change Earth's surface and affect many people. Earthquakes happen when Earth's layers shift beneath us, causing the ground to shake and sometimes damage buildings. Tornadoes are spinning storms with strong winds that can destroy homes and trees in their path. Hurricanes form over warm ocean water and bring heavy rain and dangerous winds to coastal areas. Volcanoes erupt when hot melted rock called magma comes from inside Earth. On Earth Day, we celebrate our planet and learn ways to stay safe during natural disasters. Communities prepare emergency plans and build stronger buildings to protect people. Scientists study these events to understand them better and give warnings before disasters strike. By respecting Earth and being prepared, we can reduce harm from natural disasters and keep our communities safer for everyone.

▣ Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.

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Questions

⇒ **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what causes earthquakes to happen?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'magma' mean in the passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think scientists study natural disasters?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What effect do tornadoes have on the areas where they occur?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What are two ways communities protect themselves from natural disasters?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Natural Disasters and Protecting Our Earth

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Natural disasters are powerful events that change Earth's surface and affect many people. Earthquakes happen when Earth's layers shift beneath us, causing the ground to shake and sometimes damage buildings. Tornadoes are spinning storms with strong winds that can destroy homes and trees in their path. Hurricanes form over warm ocean water and bring heavy rain and dangerous winds to coastal areas. Volcanoes erupt when hot melted rock called magma comes from inside Earth. On Earth Day, we celebrate our planet and learn ways to stay safe during natural disasters. Communities prepare emergency plans and build stronger buildings to protect people. Scientists study these events to understand them better and give warnings before disasters strike. By respecting Earth and being prepared, we can reduce harm from natural disasters and keep our communities safer for everyone.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage is mostly about what natural disasters are, how different types happen, and how people prepare for them on Earth Day.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what causes earthquakes to happen?

According to the passage, earthquakes happen when "Earth's layers shift beneath us," which causes the ground to shake.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'magma' mean in the passage?

Magma means hot melted rock that comes from inside Earth and is released during volcanic eruptions.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think scientists study natural disasters?

Scientists study natural disasters to understand them better so they can warn people and help keep them safe from harm.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What effect do tornadoes have on the areas where they occur?

Tornadoes can destroy homes and trees in their path because of their strong spinning winds.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What are two ways communities protect themselves from natural disasters?

According to the passage, communities prepare emergency plans and build stronger buildings to protect people from natural disasters.