



Activity: Natural Disaster People Search

Purpose: Encouraging students to share their personal experiences, knowledge and feelings concerning natural disaster threats

Age level: 9-18

Time needed: 40 minutes

Resources:

- ✓ A copy of the *Natural Disaster People Search* handout per student

Procedure

Stage 1

Students stand in an open space and each is given a copy of the handout (see below). They are invited to walk around, meet classmates, and find *one person* who can answer 'yes' to one of the statements; they then ask the person to elaborate on their understandings, experiences and/or feelings. The teacher explains that each classmate is expected to respond to a question, and that once both have had a question answered they should move on to meet other classmates for further exchanges. Students are encouraged to jot down names and what is said during each exchange, and to get as many answers as possible in the time available, but not to rush; it is important that each pair has a proper conversation.

Stage 2

In subsequent class discussion, students are encouraged to share the stories that have been told and the feelings and ideas shared. The teacher also asks pupils what questions the stories have raised in their minds, listing the questions on the board.



Potential/Facilitation Guidance

This is a busy activity. A 'busy' classroom mood should be encouraged, but not so busy that students are bent on completing the sheet rather than really listening to each other. Stress the importance of being an active listener. Possible class discussion questions include:

- Did you learn anything from anybody that really surprised you?
- Did you find that you had had feelings and experiences in common with others? What were those feelings/experiences?
- Did you argue with classmates? About what?
- What has the activity shown that we as a group know about natural hazards and disasters? What has it shown that we don't know?
- What questions should we list on the board that we would like to investigate?

The questions listed can provide a springboard for investigatory group project work.

Discussion prompts in the handout referring to particular natural hazards can be rewritten to reference hazards more commonly experienced locally, regionally and nationally.



Handout: Natural Disaster People Search

| Find someone who: | | Name |
|-------------------|---|------|
| 1 | Has experienced flooding | |
| 2 | Can list different kinds of natural disaster | |
| 3 | Knows what signs in nature warn that a tsunami is coming | |
| 4 | Has listened to an older person speaking of coping with natural disasters in the past | |
| 5 | Knows what to do if there is a hurricane warning | |
| 6 | Knows the causes and effects of earthquakes | |
| 7 | Feels the normal rhythm of the seasons is changing | |
| 8 | Has found themselves out in nature when a storm struck | |
| 9 | Knows of people who have had to evacuate because of the effects of a hurricane or other hazard | |
| 10 | Have learned at school about how to be prepared for natural disasters | |
| 11 | Worries about natural disasters in the future | |
| 12 | Believes that impacts of natural disasters are not that serious | |
| 13 | Became scared when a hurricane, tornado or other bad storm passed through the community | |
| 14 | Thinks that women and children are more affected by natural disasters | |
| 15 | Knows how to protect themselves in case of wildfire | |
| 16 | Knows of people or organizations working to prevent and reduce the effects of natural disasters | |
| 17 | Knows farmers who are suffering from extreme weather events | |
| 18 | Has questions about the relationship between climate change and natural disasters | |
| 19 | Has personally taken action to address threats of natural disasters | |
| 20 | Believes that people should respect the power of nature | |