

LESSON 5: EFFECTS OF A DISASTER



Youth Preparedness Initiative

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Projector
- Computer
- White board
- Poster board
- Markers or colors
- Natural disaster books or resources

NOTES

“Denotes instructor statements to class.”

VIDEO:

10 Natural Disasters of All Time

<https://youtu.be/gazRCK0Oeno>

PROJECT AREA:

Disaster Preparedness

LESSON # IN BOOK:

Five out of six

TARGET AGE/GRADES:

Fourth through eighth grade

TIME LENGTH REQUIRED:

60 minutes

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Youth will be able to identify some of the effects of a natural disaster.
- Youth will be able to identify the effects of natural disasters on Louisiana.
- Youth will be able to create a poster on a natural disaster to discuss the effects of it.

VOCABULARY WORDS:

- **Effect:** The power to bring about a result.
- **Land loss:** Conversion of coastal land to open water by natural processes and human activities.

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON:

“Any natural disaster can cause a tragedy for a family, town or state. They are massive destructions that can wipe out anything in its path. It can destroy property and people and cause loss of financial resources and land. To begin today’s lesson, let’s look at this video of the impacts of some natural disasters. (Video link is listed to the left.)

After watching this video, we can see how tragic these disasters can be. Of course, not all natural disasters are the same strength and have the same effects. Since we live in Louisiana and know that hurricanes are the most common natural disaster in our state, what are some effects that we can identify from a hurricane that might happen in our state?”

Give the students two minutes to think about this. Call them up to the board to write down a few answers.

“Those are all great answers! Today we are going to go over a few effects of natural disasters and how Louisiana has been impacted.”

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

“Natural disasters always have some type of impact on the area that is in their path. The severity of the impact is what makes natural disasters so dangerous! Losing homes, land and lives are just a few of the effects of these disasters.”

Losing your home can be devastating! Many people think this could never happen to them and that their home will be there forever. However, according to the Scientific American, on average more than 3 million adults were displaced from their homes in the past year (2022) due to natural disasters in the United States. That is a lot! Flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes and forest fires are just a few of the disasters that can destroy houses and buildings. In the video, we saw homes go down to the slab quickly.

Not only are homes and properties destroyed in minutes, but land can be, too. Forest fires and hurricanes impact land drastically. The 2021 Wildfires Report by the National Centers for Environmental Information tells us that more than 7 million acres of wildland were consumed by fire in the United States that year. With this loss of land, wildlife, agriculture and livestock suffer from the effects. Many of the wildlife are scared to come back to their habitats due to the ash on the ground. Their homes are destroyed, and it could take years for them to find their way back to the area. Agricultural crops can also be damaged or harmed. This loss could impact workers, property owners and thousands of jobs. Hurricanes have also been known to have a big impact on the areas in the path. Just four hurricanes – Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike in 2005 and 2008 – caused an estimated 328 square miles of coastal land loss in Louisiana (Palaseanu-Lovejoy, 2013). This coastal land is home to several species of fish, wildlife and other marine life. For many in the coastal region, this land is a way for residents to make a living. Commercial fishing is a huge industry, but the constant land loss after storms has impacted the population numbers drastically.

The physical impact of natural disasters is devastating; however, it has also been a factor in the causes of deaths. On average, 60,000 people per year die from natural disasters (Ritchie and Roser, 2014). Each year is different due to the number of storms; however, the number of deaths is still unbelievable. Many people wonder how this is possible. Well, not all natural disasters have warnings. Tornadoes, tsunamis and avalanches can happen quickly, giving little to no room to get out of harm's way. Others get caught in the disaster as they do not take the right precautions or evacuate. Now that we know a little about the effects of natural disasters, you will get into groups to teach us more about different natural disasters and their impacts on people and infrastructures.”

ACTIVITY:

Effects of Natural Disaster Posters

Have art supplies available for students (posters, colors, markers). Write the following

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requirement for the activity on the board for students to see.

Requirements:

1. Name of natural disaster.
2. Three characteristics of the disaster.
3. Three statistics about the effects of the disaster.
4. The greatest effect of the disaster.
5. Visual representation using art supplies.
6. Your name on the back of the presentation.
7. Present as a group.

“Now that we have learned about the effects of natural disasters let’s educate others about the effects by making posters with facts about the impacts of the disaster.

In groups of three, you will research a natural disaster that interests your group. On the board, there is a list of requirements you should include in your final poster presentation.

On your poster, you should have a title of the natural disaster, three characteristics of the disaster, three statistics about the effects of the disaster, the greatest effect of the disaster and a visual representation using art supplies. You may use computers, books, and any other supplies available to complete this project. Once all groups are done, each group will present their poster.”

REFERENCES:

Disasters Displaced More Than 3 Million Americans in 2022. Retrieved From <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/disasters-displaced-more-than-3-million-americans-in-2022/> (accessed October 2023).

How Hurricanes Shape Wetlands in Southern Louisiana. (2013 November). Retrieved From <https://ocean.si.edu/ecosystems/coasts-shallow-water/how-hurricanes-shape-wetlands-southern-louisiana> (accessed October 2023).

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REFERENCES (CONT.):

10 Deadliest Natural Disasters of All Time. (2019 July 12). Retrieved From <https://youtu.be/gazRCK0Oeno> (accessed October 2022).

REFLECTION AND EVALUATION:

As a review, have students present their group presentations. After all, the presentations are done, have students go up to the board and write down one thing they learned about the effects of natural disasters. They cannot duplicate answers, so give them time to think creatively. After all the students have gone, briefly go over the ideas on the board and answer any further questions.

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