HAZARDS AND HUMANS

STUDENT WORKBOOK

ACCELERATE

ACTIVITY 1

REGIONAL RISK

Have you ever thought about which natural disasters are the most and least likely to happen where you live? In this first activity, you will analyze maps to determine where people are safest from natural hazards.

I SAFEST PLACE IN THE STATES

Earthquakes, tornadoes, and wildfires – oh, my! Have you experienced any of these extreme events? They are examples of natural hazards. A **natural hazard** is an environmental event that is not caused by humans and can have a negative effect on societies, structures, humans, and other organisms. In everyday life, these are sometimes referred to as "natural disasters."

People want to stay safe from natural hazards. Some prepare for danger in case of a disaster, while others try to avoid danger. Where do you think is the safest place to live in your country in terms of natural hazards? What about in the world?

In the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined which areas are at risk for different types of natural hazards. These different types include:

TYPE OF HAZARD	DEFINITION
Avalanche	a mass of snow, ice, and rocks falling quickly down the side of a mountain
Coastal flooding	an overflowing of a large amount of ocean water onto what is normally dry land
Cold wave	a rapid drop in temperature within 24 hours and very low temperatures for several days
Drought	when there is very little water for a long period of time

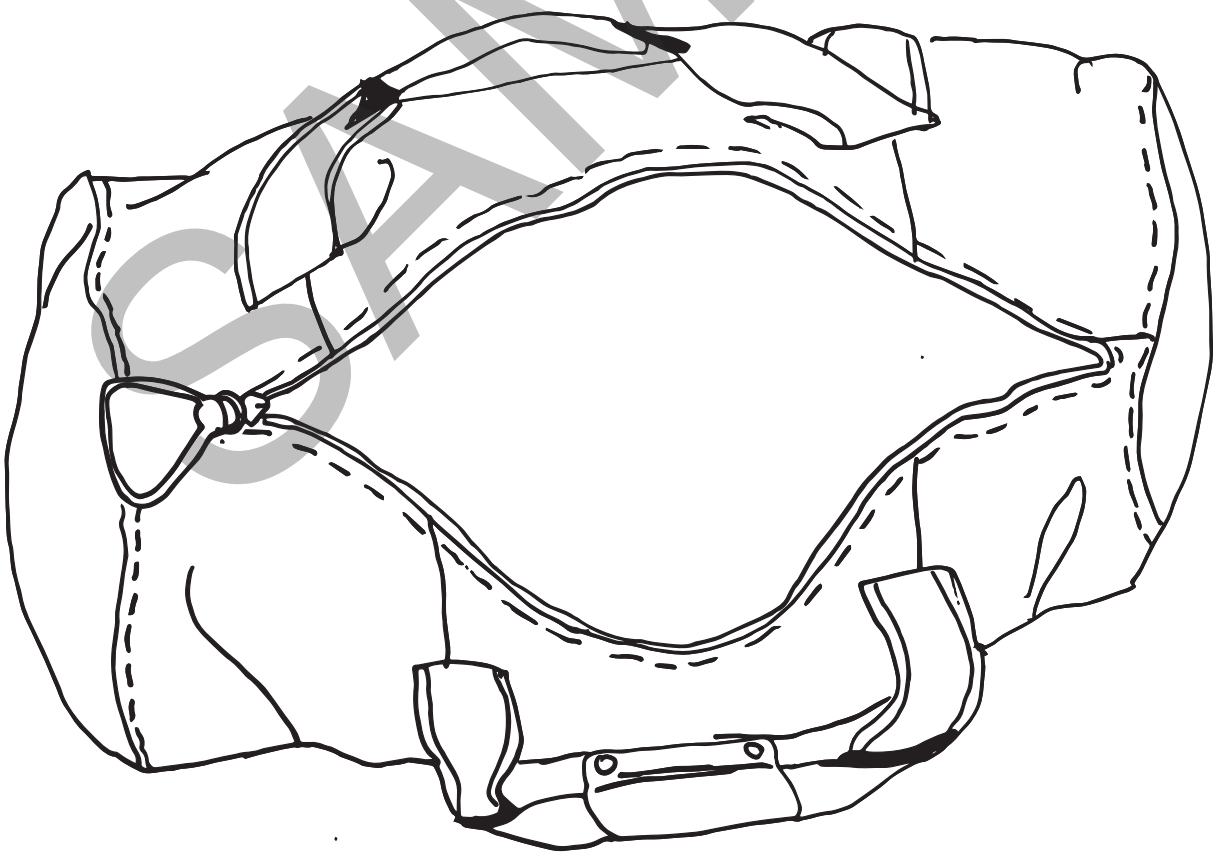
THINK ABOUT IT!

1. What is the risk level in your region?

2. What is safety in your own words?

JUST FOR FUN

Draw or color what you would pack in an emergency preparation bag.



ACTIVITY 3

NON-WEATHER HAZARDS

In the last activity, you learned about how people prepare for severe weather and how they can prevent damage from weather-related hazards. Are these methods of preparation and prevention effective against all types of hazards?

LEARNING GOALS:

- ✓ I can design and evaluate solutions for reducing the impact of natural events on humans.
- ✓ I can analyze data to predict natural hazards and explain how evidence is used to develop technologies to minimize their effects on humans.

NOT WEATHER, STILL NATURAL

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You already know that weather-related hazards can be predicted, even if those predictions are not always completely correct. What about hazards that are not weather-related? Non-weather-related hazards include:

- Earthquake
- Landslide
- Tsunami
- Volcanic activity
- Wildfire

WEATHER OR NOT? :

Keep in mind that even though weather is not a direct cause of these hazards, it may play a part in making them more likely or less likely to happen. For example, a long drought would make wildfires more likely. And, an avalanche does not happen only because of weather, but it also will not happen without snow, which is part of weather.

If weather is not the main cause of these hazards, then what is?

- Earthquakes happen near tectonic plate boundaries or faults.
- Landslides happen in areas with mountains or steep hills and loose soil.
- Tsunamis happen on the coastline of the Pacific Ocean.
- Volcanic activity happens where Earth's crust is weak or thin.
- Wildfires happen in areas with dry climates and plants that can burn.

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Kit	SU-HAZHUM
Instructions	SU-HAZHUMS
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