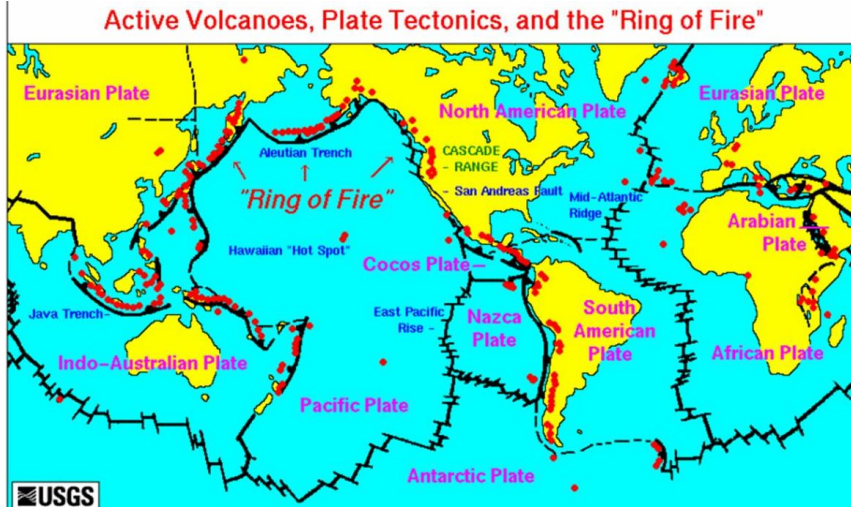


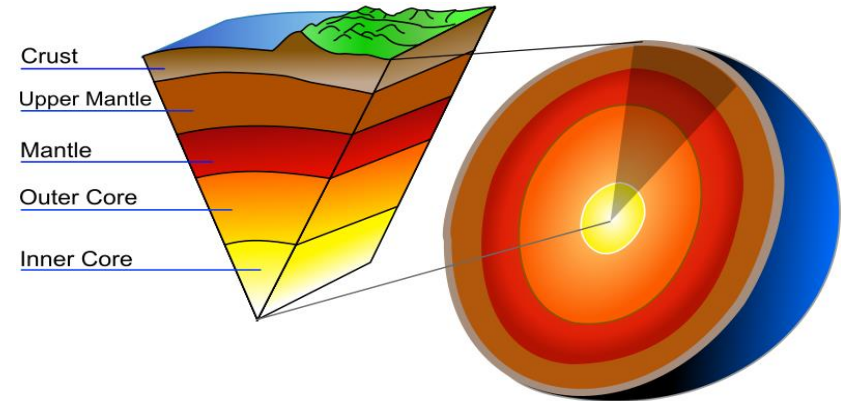
Natural Disasters

A natural disaster

is an event caused by nature such as: tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and many more. These events caused **financial hardship** for people living in the area and can also result in loss of life.



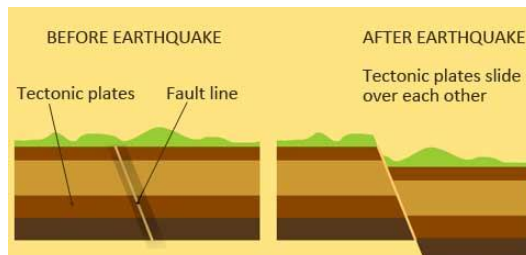
The Earth consists of four concentric layers: inner core, outer core, mantle and crust. The crust is made of 17 major tectonic plates, like a jigsaw, which are in constant motion. Earthquakes and volcanoes are most likely to occur at plate boundaries.



How natural disasters occur.

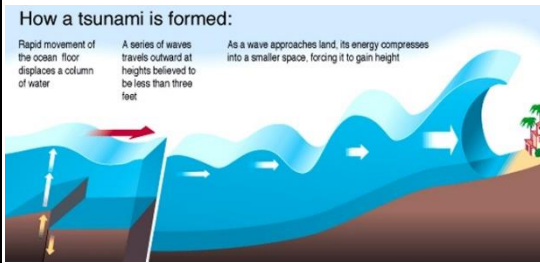
Earthquakes

The Earth's crust is made up of many moving sheets of rock that collide and pull apart, these are called **tectonic plates**. The places where these plates meet are called **fault lines**. As they rub past each other pressure can build up and cause the plates to slip. This releases a large amount of energy and causes **seismic waves** to travel throughout the Earth. The waves are felt strongly in close proximity to where the event takes place – an earthquake.



Tsunamis

A tsunami is a sudden violent change in the earth's surface resulting from a **destructive sea wave** caused by an earthquake or volcanic eruption. The volcanic or earthquake activity usually displaces the water and creates a huge wave underneath the ocean, which eventually comes down violently onto the shoreline. Tsunamis can move at speeds of up to hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and crash into the land with waves as great as 100 feet or more.



Volcanoes

As tectonic plates pull apart (diverge) or are pushed underneath one another (converge), **magma** is formed. Melted magma enters the **magma chamber** and there pressure builds up until it released through the **vents** in the volcano. When the magma reaches the surface it becomes lava. The volcanoes in the **Pacific Ring of Fire** are caused by convergent tectonic plates that are coming together. Volcanoes can be formed at places where the crust's interior plates are stretching or thinning - **Hotspots**.

