



Geography

Natural Disasters and their Impact

Time recommended: 3 hours (project)

Year 5 and 6

Strand:	Geographical Knowledge and Understanding
The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond (ACHGK030)	
Strand:	Geographical Inquiry and Skills
Descriptor:	Communicating
Present findings and ideas in a range of communication forms, for example, written, oral, graphic, tabular, visual and maps, using geographical terminology and digital technologies as appropriate (ACHGS045)	



Name: _____



Natural disasters and their Impact

Natural disasters happen all over the world. Being prepared for their occurrence is the best way to stay as possible.

TASK ONE:

The Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service helps people all over Australia and in many different circumstances. The WLRHS fleet covers 84% of the Australian population in the summer months and the main type of missions include:

- Responding to accidents and emergencies
- Sea and land based search and rescue
- Hospital and medical transfers

Another important part of the Service's role is to assist entire communities as well as individuals during natural disasters such as floods and fires. For example the Southern NSW Service helped with the 1997 Thredbo landslide disaster, while the Tasmanian Service played a key role during the January 2013 fires that swept through Tasmania.

1. Using Powerpoint, make a presentation:
 - a) Using research tools, map to explain the location, frequency and severity of bushfires or flooding in Australia
 - b) To explain how a bushfire impacts Australian vegetation
 - c) To explain the significance of fire damage on communities
2. A big part of natural disaster safety is to be prepared and plan ahead (prevention) in case of a disaster. Create a presentation (using a template of your choice, e.g. Powerpoint, Word, Poster). You must include:
 - a) Research methods of prevention in the case of a bush fire and flood
 - b) Research the best ways to reduce the effects of a bush fire and flood
 - c) Describe the importance of proper preparation to reduce the harmful effects of bushfires or flooding
 - d) Name a number of ways to prevent extensive damage caused by a fire or flood





e) Name a number of ways we can prepare for a fire or flood to stay as safe as possible

3. Present your findings and research to the class.

TASK TWO:

Communicating to others clearly about the best ways to stay safe is very important. It is through education such as the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopters Schools Program that people can learn about ways to prevent and prepare for natural disasters.

1. Your task is to present in a small group to the rest of the class the key things to consider and remember in case of a flood or fire (select one type of disaster to research and report on).
 - a) Write a report, supported by evidence you have found, about significant natural disasters either in Australia or somewhere else in the world.
 - b) Explain the details of the disaster, from the moment it occurred to the long-term impact it had on the people and places nearby.
 - c) Present a media report, together with your group, on the damage caused by the disaster you have chosen to research.

CLUES:

Be sure to use geographical terms and ensure you include the below key findings in your report:

- Loss of any cultural way of life in the impact zone
- If there was any unfairness in how government assistance was given
- How charities and aid agencies would have come in and assisted
- The way the disaster was reported in the media.

Use different ways to communicate and present the information you have researched, such as graphic, tabular, visual and maps.

