

What are Natural Hazards?

Natural hazards are physical events such as earthquakes and volcanoes that have the potential to do damage humans and property. Hazards include tectonic hazards, tropical storms and forest fires.

What affects hazard risk?



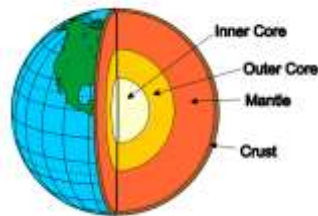
Year 7 Topic 3: Natural Hazards

Population growth
Global climate change
Deforestation
Wealth - LICs are particularly at risk as they do not have

Structure of the Earth

The earth has 4 layers

The inner core
The outer core
The mantle
The crust



The crust is split into major fragments called **tectonic plates**. There are 2 types: **Oceanic** (thin and younger but dense) and **Continental** (old and thicker but less dense)

These plates move and where they meet you get tectonic activity (volcanoes and earthquakes).

There are 2 theories of why plates move: **convection currents** and **ridge push, slab pull**.

Plates either move against each other (**destructive** margin) away from each other (**constructive**) or next to each other (**conservative**)

Effects of Tectonic Hazards

Primary effects happen immediately. Secondary effects happen as a result of the primary effects and are therefore often slightly later.

Primary - Earthquakes

- Property and buildings destroyed
- People injured or killed
- Ports, roads, railways damaged
- Pipes (water and gas) and electricity cables broken

Secondary - Earthquakes

- Business reduced as money spent repairing property
- Blocked transport hinders emergency services
- Broken gas pipes cause fire
- Broken water pipes lead to a lack of fresh water

Primary - Volcanoes

- Property and farm land destroyed
- People and animals killed or injured
- Air travel halted due to volcanic ash
- Water supplies contaminated

Secondary - Volcanoes

- Economy slows down. Emergency services struggle to arrive
- Possible flooding if ice melts Tourism can increase as people come to watch
- Ash breaks down leading to fertile farm land

Responses to Tectonic Hazards

Immediate (short term)

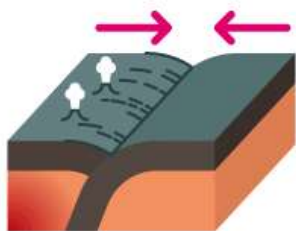
- Issue warnings if possible
- Rescue teams search for survivors
- Treat injured
- Provide food and shelter, food and drink

Long-term

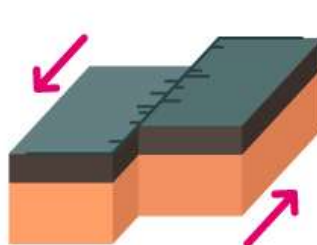
- Repair and re-build properties and infrastructure
- Restore utilities
- Resettle locals elsewhere
- Install monitoring technology
- Prediction of future hazards

Types of plate boundary

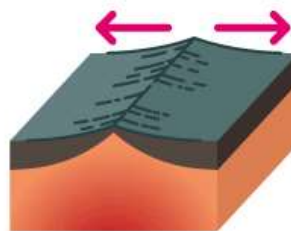
destructive



transform



Constructive



Key words: Natural hazard, distribution, inner core, outer core, mantle, tectonic plate, tectonic plate boundary, convection current, volcano, earthquake, cause, impact (primary and secondary), response (short and long term)