Millbrook Primary School Unit Plan

Year Three: Geography

Enquiry Question:

What are volcanoes and earthquakes and how do they affect our lives?

National Curriculum Objectives

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including volcanoes and earthquakes.

'Sticky Knowledge' & Skills

1. I know that volcanoes and earthquakes are physical/natural events.
2. I know that a volcano erupts when molten rock called magma rises to the surface.
3. I know that volcanoes can have positive as well as negative impacts.
4. I know that an earthquake happens when two tectonic plates run into each other or slide past each other.

'Big Six' Vocabulary

crust	magma	mantle
fertile	tectonic plate	tsunami

Prior Learning

Year1:
- Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

Year 2:
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to: key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather.

Earthquakes and volcanoes are new points of learning for children in Year Three.

Key Questions

Lesson:
1. What do you know about volcanoes?
2. How do volcanoes work?
2. Were there any benefits of Vesuvius erupting?
3. Why do so many people still live around volcanoes, even when they know it's dangerous?
4. What pattern do you notice about where the earthquakes are located?
5. Why is the biscuit used for the crust? Why is the cream used for the magma?
6. What do volcanoes and earthquakes have in common?

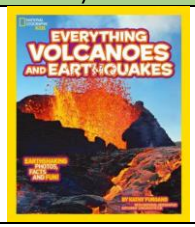
Future Learning

Year 4:
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including rivers, mountains and the water cycle

Year 5:
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts.

Children will continue their understanding of physical geography in the coming years, learning about changes to our world on a wider scale, such as the water cycle and climate zones.

Key Text



Assessment Opportunities

Lesson:
1. Can children explain the features of a volcano and verbally explain how they occur?
3. Can children also explain possible benefits of volcanic eruptions?
4. Are children able to use atlases effectively to locate earthquakes?
6. Are children able to assimilate their thoughts and present their understanding of different physical geographic features?

Unit Outcome

Children will have an awareness of how volcanoes and earthquakes work and how and why they occur. They will investigate the story of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD and why it was so famous. They will also understand the impact volcanoes have, with both positive and negative effects.

The final lesson will show children's learning across the unit by explaining how volcanoes and earthquakes compare to and differ from one another.

Learning Sequence	1	2	3	4	5	6
Key Learning	**What is a volcano?**	**Exploring Mount Vesuvius**	**Are volcanoes always bad?**	**Where do earthquakes happen?**	**How do earthquakes happen?**	**How are volcanoes and earthquakes similar and different?**
Activity	Children will learn the key features of a volcano and how they work and label a diagram of a volcano.	Children will learn the story of Vesuvius' eruption in 79AD and create a storyboard of the key events.	Children will role play as different people involved in a volcanic eruption, exploring possible positive as well as negative effects.	Children will locate prominent historical earthquakes around the world and add them to a large whole class map, before discussing any patterns they can see regarding their location.	Children will use custard creams (top layer = crust, filling = liquid magma, bottom layer = mantle) to demonstrate the movement of tectonic plates either towards, away from or next to each other.	Children will summarise their learning by creating a double bubble map to show how volcanoes and earthquakes are similar and different.