

# 20th Century Natural Disasters in the US

**Grade level/class** - high school/US History

**Primary Objective** - identify 20<sup>th</sup> century natural disasters in the US and determine:

- A. historical context
  - when it happened
  - where it happened
  - who was pertinent govt officials
- B. immediate effect on local community
- C. long-term effect locally/nationally

**Introduction** - Have the students brainstorm in groups of 3 or 4 what natural disasters have occurred in the US

They'll probably struggle a little with this - if access to computers is available, have them query the internet for results - if computers are not readily available, make it a library search

**Teaching Strategies** - When the initial group discussion and/or research is completed, have each group report their findings and write the results on the board.

Possible responses -

- 1906 San Francisco earthquake
- 1927 Mississippi Delta flood
- 1930s drought in the Great Plains
- 1930? Johnstown, Pennsylvania flood
- 1994 Northridge earthquake
- or other local natural disasters

Determine which disasters are desired to be researched and divide the class into equal groups

**Assignment:**

This could become either an individual or group assignment depending on the desire of the teacher.

The student (group) will complete one of the following assignments:

conduct an interview of someone that went through the disaster and then deliver an oral report to the class - he/she will compare/contrast the interviewee's recollections with primary sources of the actual event

research the disaster and the aftermath/after effects and answer the following questions: How is it reflected in culture? What cultural/societal changes were brought about? and deliver a power point presentation to the class

make a poster about the disaster

write a newspaper article about the event

mapping exercise showing the locations most affected by the disaster

**Assessment:**

Accuracy of information