

Name: _____

Date: _____

Natural Disasters Inquiry Task

Imagine that you are an investigative newspaper reporter, living in a disaster-prone country. One day, the unthinkable happens: a terrible natural disaster hits your city, with disastrous consequences. As a journalist, it is your job to inform the public about this terrible event.

Task:

Choose a major natural disaster that has occurred somewhere in the world during the 20th or 21st century. Research this event and present your findings as a detailed newspaper article.

To complete the first part of this task (researching), you will need to apply an inquiry approach of gathering information. This involves:

- developing questions to research about your earthquake e.g. When and where did the earthquake occur? How serious was it? How was the city and its population affected?
- collecting information about your earthquake from a range of primary and secondary sources, and recording it (in dot-point form) using the graphic organiser provided
- evaluating the usefulness of the information you have collected, and selecting which information will be included in your newspaper article
- communicating your findings, using geographical terminology, appropriate vocabulary and other visual representations of data e.g. graphs, tables and maps.

To complete the second part of this task (presenting), you will need to have an understanding of how newspaper articles are structured. This includes:

- **Headline** - a short, attention-getting statement about the event
- **Byline** - the author's name
- **Lead Paragraph** - contains the main information of the event
- **Body Paragraphs** - contain additional, more detailed information about event
- **Quotes** - personal comments from people affected by the event
- **Concluding Paragraph** - contains a brief summary of the event.

A planning sheet has been provided to help draft your newspaper article.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Research Graphic Organiser

The natural disaster I have chosen is: _____

Main Information	Additional Information
Quotes	List of Sources

Name: _____

Date: _____

Newspaper Article Planning Sheet

Headline:

Byline:

Lead Paragraph:

Body Paragraphs (including quotes):

Conclusion: