

Every day, different parts of the United States experience earthquakes, tornadoes, and other events that are called disasters when they are strong enough. This year we are going to be keeping track of these events on a map of the country, and you will contribute to this record of events.

The class will be divided up into three groups. Each group is responsible for a different set of events.

Earthbenders: Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions

Your group is:

Waterbenders: Floods, landslides, waterspouts and tsunamis

Airbenders: Tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires

You will be provided with a log in which to record your events. Each weekend, you must find an event from the past week and record it in your log, which will be stamped the first day of class that week by your teacher. At the end of the project, you will turn in your log and be graded as follows:

To get full credit, you will need to have logged at least 90% of the weeks.

Any further logs, up to 100%, will be worth extra credit.

Logs will need to include the date, location (city, state), and strength of the event. For example, an earthquake would have a magnitude, or a tornado would have a wind speed. A landslide or wildfire could have an area covered or affected.

We will be tracking these events as a class on a map of the United States. Each time you have a log entry due, you will be creating a tag for your event and placing it on the map with a pin. Over time, our class map will become filled with a record of natural events in our country. Your teacher will provide the necessary resources for creating the map and pins.

There are many good resources for finding your events. Here is a list to get you started.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/> (usgs.gov is very good in general)

<http://www.wunderground.com/tornado/> (remember to check the key on this map)

<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/> (volcanic eruptions usually make it into the regular news too)

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps/> (for floods)

There is no national landslide tracking site. You will have to search the news.

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> For hurricanes

<http://ptwc.weather.gov/> For tsunamis

Waterspouts are tornadoes that go over water. See tornadoes.

<http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/> For wildfires

These are just resources to get you started. It is a good idea to find other sources for information on the internet, and the news can also be very helpful too. Remember to check the **date** of the event and make sure it happened in the last week!

The project does not have a due date yet. It will be eventually due at the end of our Earth Science unit.

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