

The USA

Geography

Year 3/4

Lesson 6 of 7

Learning Objective		Resources	
To find out about natural phenomena in the USA.		Slides Worksheet 6A/6B/6C Picture Card 6A/6B/6C Information Sheet (FSD? activity only) Poster Templates (FSD? activity only)	
Teaching Input			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Show children the three states on the slides with some brief information. Which of these states would you most like to live in and why? Children to think, pair, share their ideas.• Explain that there are natural phenomena that occur in some parts of America that can make living in certain places really difficult. Show children the vocabulary on the slides: earthquake, tornado, blizzard, and hurricane. Do you know what each of these different phenomena are? Invite children to share their responses.• Go through the information on the slides about each of these phenomena and where they are most likely to occur in the USA.• Show children the three states again. Have you changed your mind about which one you would most like to live in? Why or why not? Discuss responses as a class.			
Main Activity			
<u>Lower ability:</u> Provide children with Picture Card 6A which shows a Kansas farm. Children to draw the picture during and after a tornado on worksheet 6A, then answer the questions.	<u>Middle ability:</u> Provide children with Picture Card 6B which shows a Florida market. Children to draw the picture during and after a hurricane on worksheet 6B, then answer the questions.	<u>Higher ability:</u> Provide children with Picture Card 6C which shows a Californian city. Children to draw the picture during and after an earthquake on worksheet 6C, then answer the questions.	
Fancy something different...?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask children to choose one of the four natural phenomena we have just looked at: tornado, blizzard, hurricane or earthquake. Children are challenged to do some research to find out the best way to stay safe during the natural disaster they have chosen.• They are then challenged to create an information poster on how to stay safe in either a tornado, an earthquake, a hurricane or a blizzard. Children can use the Poster Templates, create their own on A4 paper, or use word processing.			
Plenary		Assessment Questions	
Explain that the UK has a few minor earthquakes each year. If a major earthquake was to hit the classroom, what objects are there that could cause a hazard? How could we make the classroom safer? Children to think, pair, share their ideas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do children know what earthquakes, tornadoes, blizzards and hurricanes are?• Can children discuss the impacts of these natural phenomena on the USA?• Can children identify areas of the USA where these phenomena are most likely to occur?	