**A tsunam**i is a train of gigantic waves that occur after an earthquake or volcanic eruption. They can be as high as 30 meters, travel as fast as a jet plane and go as far inland as 2 kilometers. Most tsunamis happen in the Pacific.

**Mudslides** are fast moving landslides that occur after heavy rains. They can destroy and kill everything in their path.

**Earthquakes** are caused by the movement of the earth’s plates. There are 20 which lie under the surface of the earth. 4 out of 5 earthquakes take place in the Pacific

Rim.

**A tornado** is a spinning tube of air that touches the ground and a cloud above. They usually travel only a few miles but can destroy everything in their wake. The US has 1200 a year- more than anywhere else in the world.

**A hurricane** is a strong tropical storm with high winds and heavy rain. Each hurricane has a boy’s or girl’s name. They cause tremendous damage when they hit land. They occur from June until November in the US.

**Other DISASTERS**

* **heat waves**
* **hailstorms**
* **epidemics**
* **wildfires**
* **thunderstorms**

**A blizzard** is a severe snowstorm with very high winds, extremely low temperatures, and poor or no visibility. They are especially dangerous for travelers who may get stuck in their cars and could suffer from hypothermia.

**Floods** are one of the worst natural disasters and cost the most money. They occur when storms cause rivers to overflow or by high tides. They cause enormous damage and loss of life.

**Volcanoes** are explosions that happen from openings in the earth’s surface. Most volcanoes are located in the Pacific Rim. When volcanoes erupt, they spew magma, lava, and ash. There are between 1,300 to 1,500 volcanoes on Earth.

**An avalanche** is a like a mudslide except it is made up of snow and ice. They occur in the mountains after fresh snowfalls and can travel at 80 miles an hour.

**Drought:** A drought occurs when there has not been enough rain so that crops and plants can grow. Farm animals die and people don’t have enough to eat.

**Forest fires** are fires that burn in forest areas. Lightning can start them but usually careless people do. There are 100,000 fires in the US every year. They can travel at 23 kilometers an hour and will destroy everything as they move. Drought and hot weather are also responsible for many fires.













