Catastrophic Event Notes

Goal: Predict and describe how different types of catastrophic events impact ecosystems.
Foldable Directions

• Describe the catastrophic event
  - How is it formed?
  - What does it look like?
• EcoRegion(s) in Texas affected
• Predict how this event could impact the ecosystem
  - Plants/Animals
  - Earth’s surface
  - Water
  - People
• Color Picture
Discuss with your neighbor the meaning of catastrophic events and natural disasters...

- **Catastrophic Events** - events are **caused by nature or man** that significantly damage the ecosystem. Such as: oil spills, 911 (twin towers), atomic bombs, hurricanes, tornadoes

- **Natural Disasters** - extreme sudden events **caused by environmental factors** that significantly damage the ecosystem. Such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes
Tornado

- Fast rotating columns of air
- Also called twisters and cyclones
- Common in ‘tornado alley’

Tornado Alley
Hurricane

• Huge tropical cyclones that form over a warm ocean
• Produces severe rain - can cause flooding
• Only effects coastal regions
• Hurricane Katrina
• Nationalgeographic/katrina day by day
• galveston1900
Flood

• Flashfloods are caused by severe rain storms
• Effects low elevation areas the most since gravity pulls water downward
• Ground is saturated with water and cannot absorb any more

#floods
Oil Spill

• Oil leaks into ocean
• abcnewstexas-oil-spill
• oil-spill-is-impacting-economy
• Wildlife Impact
• Oil Spill
Tsunami

- A giant tidal wave created by an under water earthquake or volcanic eruption
- Recent tsunami in Japan
- Tsunami 101
Mudslide/Landslide

- Downward movement of a large amount of land/mud/rock.
- Caused by large amounts of rain & gravity
Droughts

- Lack or severe decrease of rainfall in an area.
- [101-videos/droughts](#)
- Can lead to wild fires
- Large fires often covering many square miles (kilometers) that can burn for many days.
- [wildfire-research](#)
Earthquakes

• **Shaking** of the ground caused by the sudden shift in tectonic plates overcoming friction.

• Video
Volcano

- Cone shaped mountain with a vent through which lava flows.
- volcano-eruptions
- Pompeii
Sinkhole

- Occurs when the rock below the land surface, such as limestone is dissolved by groundwater creating caves underground. Eventually the surface collapse because of the weight above ground and the lack of support.

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQvv8YFCGsY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQvv8YFCGsY)