

The Challenges of Disaster

by Caralyn Bingham

Students will be designing...

The students will design a new society after a natural disaster, taking into consideration social, political, economic, and other effects of the disaster.

Through engaging in this challenge, students will learn...

to work in a collaborative environment, to study natural disasters and their impacts on humans, and to rebuild a society based on human needs. The goal of this unit is to push students to the higher levels of Depths of Knowledge. I have assigned each activity a DOK level. Please refer to Hess Cognitive Rigor Matrix for descriptions. The following website provides some great resources.

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/langartsec/Professional-Learning/Seminars.aspx>

Lesson 1: Defining Disasters

Students will define natural disasters. Students will research natural disasters and the implications of those disasters.

Lesson 2: The Human Impact

Students will read, annotate and analyze primary and secondary source documents or media on natural disasters, OR students will read, annotate and analyze a fictional scene of a natural disaster. (Use Paul's Reasoning Model for a Situation or Event and/or Empathy Chart.)

Students will engage in appropriate conversation in an interview with an Emergency/CERT team or individual. They will listen, take notes, and provide questions for the interview.

Lesson 3: My Role When Disaster Strikes

Students will be assigned a role and will complete the remainder of the activity from their character's point of view. Students will take on responsibilities and establish survival needs based on the adopted point of view. Students will write a story based on their assigned role and the needs they must meet. Students will work collaboratively on their prototypes, present the prototypes, receive feedback, and modify the prototypes based on the feedback. Students will reflect on the whole experience using essential questions.