

Curriculum Parent Overview (Grade 4)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

UNIT #2: EARTH'S CHANGES (7 WEEKS)

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: How do natural disasters affect us?

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS:

Students will understand that changes that take place on Earth affect the people who live on it. People can protect themselves from some of the effects of natural disasters by preparing in different ways. Natural disasters can affect the landscape, transportation, housing, and food sources, in addition to many other aspects of people's lives.

ATTITUDES - STUDENTS WILL BE...

- Curious about why things happen and how they affect people.

SKILLS - STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Explain events, procedures, ideas or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic.
- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- What natural disaster do you think is the most dangerous?
- How can we protect ourselves from different natural disasters?
- What types of natural disasters do we have in Illinois?
- Have you or anyone you know experienced a natural disaster? What was it like?
- What do you know about what happened in Pompeii? Was it preventable? What are we doing differently now?