

**Prepared Lesson Plan for offering an enhanced unit on Natural Hazards
in all Alabama Sixth Grade Earth Science Classes**

Sequence of Instruction

Get Started (1-2 Days)

Students will answer the following questions in their notebook: (1) What types of disasters occur in your area? and, (2) What does your family do to prepare for these types of disasters?

Engage

Teacher will display the provided *Natural Hazards Classroom Poster*. Students will discuss their experiences and prior knowledge about each type of natural disaster.

Explore

Students will view the provided DVD - "*Surviving the Storm - What you should know.*" This video will explain forecasting of storms. Use provided web sites to explore non-weather related disasters (in a computer lab or via LCD projector). Students will record what they learned.

Explain (1 Day)

Teacher will discuss *Nature's Most Violent Storms - Facts, Myths and Truths*, and *What You Can Do When Threatening Weather Approaches* using the provided preparedness guide, "*thunderstorms... tornadoes...lightning... Nature's Most Violent Storms.*" Explore web sites if time allows.

Practice Together (1 Day)

Teacher will guide the students in preparing a plan for their school and class in case of a disaster. You can use the case studies in FEMA publication #431 entitled, "*Tornado Protection - Selecting Refuge Areas in Buildings*" to help students decide on a safe refuge at their school. You can download and print this booklet at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/tornado/fema431.shtm>. Students will practice the plan.

Practice in teams/groups/pairs (1 Day)

Students will work in small groups using the provided brochure, "*Is Your Family Prepared?*", to prepare an at-home plan checklist. Students will identify what needs to be included in a family disaster plan (examples: choose meeting locations; designate a common relative to contact; a disaster supply kit and smaller disaster supply kits for family automobiles; a list of survival supplies for each; and a schedule for practice and maintenance). Include all in checklist.

Practice Alone (at home)

Students will take the disaster checklist they created in class and "*Is Your Family Prepared?*" brochure home. Students will work with their family to create a family disaster plan. Students will create, record, and practice their families' disaster plan.

Closing Activities (1-2 days)

Students will present their families' plan to the class. Parents may be invited to hear and/or participate in the presentations.

Evaluate understanding daily/weekly

Daily - Students will be expected to participate (teacher observation) and will be responsible for recording what they learned, school plan, and group work (check list).

Weekly - Students will turn in their families' disaster plan and list of survival supplies at the end of the week.

Accommodations

Students with learning disabilities may use sketches to identify disaster plan needs and/or tape their family plan.

Note: Days are based on a 50-minute class. Teachers can adjust this lesson plan to meet individual class time.