



# Disaster WebQuest

ASSIGNMENTS AND RESOURCES



Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience

# Disaster WebQuest

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You are about to embark on a journey about natural disasters that have happened in Australia. Yes, maybe even where you live!

A natural disaster may be in the form of a tropical cyclone, drought, bushfire, flood, heatwave, severe storm, storm surge, earthquake or landslide.

Can you think of any natural disasters that have happened where you live? Ask your family and friends if they have ever experienced any natural disasters.

For this WebQuest, you will need to arrange yourselves into groups of four students. You will need to research and report on a natural disaster that has impacted on communities in Australia.

It will be up to your group to decide how you would like to present your information. Some ideas include: a digital presentation, a book, a newspaper report, an information brochure, a play, a web page etc. Be as creative as you like as this will form part of your assessment!

# The Disaster WebQuest task

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In groups of four, students will be required to research and report on a disaster from differing perspectives within the community.

Decide which area each member is going to research.

1

## Preparation

How prepared was the community for the disaster? Was the local council involved in preparing for this type of disaster?

2

## Prevention

What plans were in place for such an event? Explain the role of the local council.

3

## Response

Who was involved in the response to the disaster? What did they do? What were the different roles that people had in the recovery teams?

# 4

## Recovery

Who was involved in getting the community back in order? What did they do? Who did they involve? What was the cost to the community?

### Disaster WebQuest Teacher Information

This Disaster WebQuest is aimed at Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 students but could easily be modified to the needs of latter years.

This WebQuest is focused on the curriculum area of geography, but also has many aspects relevant to other curriculum areas such as English, maths, technologies, science, the arts, and history and social sciences.

Teachers will need to ensure that they have:

- read through the entire requirements of the Disaster WebQuest prior to starting it with their class
- filled in the allocated time for each task on the student workplan and printed off enough copies for students
- conducted a lesson with students on how to conduct effective research and how to reference materials used
- talked to students about natural disasters and the ramifications of such events
- discussed with students their expectations of working in groups and both the self-assessment and teacher assessment rubric.

# Disaster WebQuest Process

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- Step 1.** Once you have established your team, you will need to decide who will research each area of the task. Remember that you may need to compromise in coming up with your final plan. Ensure that each member of your team is given a chance to express which area they would ideally like to research, before deciding as a team.
- Step 2.** Once you have decided who will undertake the research in each area your teacher will give you a workplan. Before you start the Disaster WebQuest you should fill out your workplan (pg. 10 - Sample student workplan). You should fill in the column with the heading 'how long do you think it will take.' Think about the task carefully and look at how long your teacher has said you could spend on the task. You may think you need more or less time than your teacher has said; either way is ok as you are just having a guess at how long you think you will need.
- Step 3.** Conduct research using various sources, keeping a bibliography (there is a sample bibliography provided on pg. 15) of where you have got your information from. Record results in an individual report. Your individual report could be a digital presentation, a book, a newspaper report, an information brochure, a play, a web page etc.

- Step 4. Get back together as a team and discuss your findings.
- Step 5. Discuss your ideas for presenting your work as a group. Decide on how your team thinks your work will be best presented. Make sure you look at both the self-assessment and teacher assessment rubric so that you have an idea about what your teacher will be looking for when he/she is marking your group's work.
- Step 6. Put your presentation together and present it to the class/teacher.
- Step 7. Your teacher will ask you to record your final timeframes in your workplan. Compare how long it took you to actually complete the tasks in your Disaster WebQuest to what you thought it might take you in the beginning.

Congratulations, you have completed your Disaster WebQuest!

# WebQuest Roles / Research areas

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## Preparation researcher (Local Government - Council)

Questions you may like to look into during your research could include:

- What is the size of the town/community? How many people live there?
- Name of the local council.
- Has the town/community ever experienced this natural disaster before?
- Did the town/community have a plan if this disaster occurred? If so, what was the plan? How did the council let the community know of their emergency/disaster plans? What did the residents have to do in case this disaster happened?
- What were some of the residents' stories from the disaster? What did they learn? What, if anything, would they do differently?

## Prevention researcher (resident)

Questions you may like to look into during your research could include:

- What is the size of the town/community? How many people live there?
- Name of the local council.
- Has the town/community ever experienced this natural disaster before?
- Did the town/community have a plan if this disaster occurred? If so, what was the plan? How did the council let the community know of their emergency/disaster plans? What did the residents have to do in case this disaster happened?
- What were some of the residents' stories from the disaster? What did they learn? What, if anything, would they do differently?

## Response researcher (emergency management services)

Questions you may like to look into during your research could include:

- Did state/territory emergency services respond to the disaster? If so, who was involved? What did they do?
- Did any other organisations help? What did they do?
- Did the town/community have water, power, and telephone communication during the disaster?
- How many people were affected by the disaster?
- What services and help did people need? How long did they need this for?
- How is the town/community now?

## Recovery researcher (doctor/ nurse)

Questions you may like to look into during your research could include:

- What did the recovery involve after the disaster?
- Who was involved in the recovery for the town/community and its people? What did these people and organisations do?
- How many people were involved in the recovery?
- How many people were affected?
- What did the affected people need?
- What did the recovery cost?



# Disaster WebQuest resources

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Resources can be gathered from a variety of locations. These are some useful websites that may assist you in finding out valuable information.

## General disaster information sources

[Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub](#)

[Australian Red Cross](#)

[Department of Fire and Emergency Services Western Australia](#)

[Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Aid](#)

[Geoscience Australia](#)

[New South Wales State Emergency Service](#)

[Northern Territory Government Emergency Services](#)

[Queensland Fire and Emergency Service](#)

[Sky National Weather](#)

[South Australia State Emergency Service](#)

[Victoria State Emergency Service](#)

## Cyclones

[Tropical Cyclone Climatology - Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Drought

[Drought - Bureau of Meteorology](#)

[Melbourne Water - Climate change adaptation and mitigation](#)

## Bushfire

[Bushfire weather - Bureau of Meteorology](#)

[Victorian Country Fire Authority](#)

## Storm

[Severe storms - Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Flood

[Emergencies - Floods \(Better Health Channel\)](#)

[Floods - kidcyber](#)

# Student workplan

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## Disaster Webquest

Name: .....

Date / /

TASK	TEACHER'S TIMEFRAME	HOW LONG DO I THINK IT WILL TAKE? (Complete this column before you start your work)	HOW LONG DID IT TAKE? (Complete this column when you have finished your work)	COMMENTS
Deciding which team member will research each area of the task				
Filling in my work plan				
Conducting my research				
Preparing individual report				
Deciding how to present our group's report				
Preparing the group report				

Things that I could do to make sure that my work is completed on time are:

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How will I help my team complete the WebQuest on time?

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# Student self-assessment

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## Disaster Webquest

Name: .....

Date / /

Answer the following questions about your work in completing this WebQuest. Please give yourself a rating out of 10, with 10 being the highest score. Please put a tick in the box.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Did you work well with your group?											
Did you enjoy working in a group to complete the WebQuest?											
Did you provide your group with lots of information from your research?											
Do you think you collected enough information?											

Were you happy with your individual report?											
Were you happy with your final group presentation?											
What rating would you give this WebQuest?											

List some of the things you have learnt while working through this WebQuest.

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Comments

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# Teacher assessment rubric

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## Disaster Webquest

Student name: .....

Date / /

	A. Well above the standard expected at this time of year	B. Above standard expected at this time of year	C. At the standard expected at this time of year	D. Below the standard expected at this time of year	E. Well below the standard expected at this time of year	RESULT
Working with others in a team situation/overall contribution to the team	Student took on a leadership role within the group.	Student was a highly productive team member.	Student contributed to the team effectively.	Student did not effectively interact with team members.	Student did not cooperate with other team members.	
Production of a workplan	Extensively detailed workplan showing consideration for individual and team issues.	Detailed workplan showing consideration for some possible issues.	Satisfactorily completed a workplan.	More thought and detail was expected in workplan.	Workplan was minimal or not completed.	
Variety of research sources in bibliography	More than 10 sources were contained in bibliography.	More than seven sources were contained in bibliography.	More than five sources were contained in bibliography.	More than three sources were contained in bibliography.	Less than two sources were contained in bibliography.	

Depth of research data	Research was very detailed. A lot of very relevant information included.	Research had some good detail. Lots of information, most of which was relevant.	Research was good but lacked detail. Just enough information.	Did not contain enough information.	Research was minimal or incomplete.	
Individual report	Report was very detailed. Included and expanded on many different areas of the disaster. Presented and written very well.	Report contained good information and was presented in a clear and logical manner.	Report contained some good information but lacked detail.	Not a lot of detail and information not organised. Difficult to make sense of.	Report had little detail, or was incomplete.	
Quality of team presentation of WebQuest findings	Presentation was of extremely high quality, organised effectively and contained visual aids.	Presentation was good but could have been organised more effectively and contained more in-depth information.	Presentation was ok. Just enough information was contained. Few pictures.	Presentation was not sufficient. Lacked detail and showed limited learning.	Presentation was incomplete or not completed.	

Overall result: .....

Comments

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# Sample bibliography

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Student name: .....

Date / /

## Books

Author	Title of book	Publisher	Year of publication	Place of publication

## Internet sites

Web address (URL)	Title of documents/pages used	Year of publication

## Newspaper articles, journals, encyclopedias

Title of newspaper, journal, encyclopaedia etc.	Title of article	Year & volume /issue number	Page numbers





/ End.

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

ADDRESS

370 Albert Street,  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

CONTACT

p : +61 3 9419 2388  
e : [enquiries@aidr.org.au](mailto:enquiries@aidr.org.au)

WEBSITE

[www.aidr.org.au](http://www.aidr.org.au)