

**Your name:** Lucas Smith

**School:** Elston Middle School

**Grade level for this unit:** 6-8

**Title of Lesson:** Natural Disasters

**Brief summary of lesson:**

Natural disasters have always had devastating impacts on people and communities since the beginning of mankind. Through scientific discoveries, people have learned ways to lessen these impacts on civilization. Using the Library of Congress website, students will research how natural disasters have impacted communities in the early 20th century. Students will use all of the available primary sources available to get a true feeling of what it was like to be in the actual natural disaster during that time period. The students will then follow up by researching the various scientific discoveries that have helped communities to lessen the impact of these natural disasters.

**List of Materials / Supplies:**

Computer with access to the Library of Congress website

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

**Procedures or Steps:**

1. Students will utilize the Library of Congress website to research natural disasters during the early 20th century.
2. Students will research scientific discoveries that have helped lessen the impact natural disasters have on communities.
3. Students will then design a presentation including two parts. The first part will be to present an eye-witness account of what took place during a natural disaster in the early 20th century. The second part will be to present to the class ways that scientific discoveries have helped to lessen the impact natural disasters have on communities.

**Evaluation:**

The students will complete a reflection paper following their presentations. In this paper they will list three different natural disasters that they have researched or learned about in the presentations from their peers. Under each of these natural disasters, they will list 3-5 impacts the natural disaster has had on people in the early 20th century, and list how scientific discoveries have helped to lessen the impact these natural disasters have had on people and communities today.