FT for schools: COVID-19 and hazard preparedness activity sheet 1

This resource was written by Stephen Schwab, author, and consultant.

The article

www.ft.com/content/74e5f04a-7df1-11ea-82f6-150830b3b99a Tim Harford: why we fail to prepare for disasters April 16 2020.

Specification links

Questions have been constructed considering AQA 3.1.5.1 The concept of hazard in a geographical context. *Nature, forms and potential impacts of natural hazards (geophysical, atmospheric and hydrological). Hazard perception and its economic and cultural determinants.*

Characteristic human responses – *fatalism, prediction, adjustment/adaptation, mitigation, management, risk sharing – and their relationship to hazard incidence, intensity, magnitude, distribution and level of development.* The Park model of human response to hazards. The Hazard Management Cycle.

Edexcel Dynamic Landscapes Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards *1.6 Development and governance are important in understanding disaster impact and vulnerability and resilience.*

OCR The exposure of people to risks and their ability to cope with tectonic hazards changes over time and 3.1.5 Responses to tectonic hazards in the Eduqas specification.

Activity

Read the Financial Times article by Tim Harford about why we often fail to prepare for disasters and where he draws comparisons between Hurricane Katrina and the current pandemic.

1. According to the writer Hurricane Ivan, which missed New Orleans, provided valuable lessons; it:

   Demonstrated the need to prepare, urgently and on a dozen different fronts, for the next hurricane.

   What management mitigation lessons remained unlearnt/ ignored by the time Hurricane Katrina hit just a year later?

2. How do Max Bazerman and Michael Watkins articulate this problem in their book?

3. How have patterns of behaviour relating to SARS in 2003; influenza epidemics, H5N1 in 2006 and H1N1 in 2009; Ebola in 2013; and MERS in 2015, paralleled the patterns of behaviour experienced around Hurricane Ivan?

4. Suggest how psychologists such as Bibb Latané and John Darley and Robert Meyer describe human inaction in the face of hazard dangers.

5. Outline the difference between fatalism and the attitude Robert Meyer researched in 'The Ostrich Paradox' book and illustrated by Hurricane Sandy 2012.

6. According to Robert Meyer and Michael Watkins why don't 'near misses' such as SARS or Hurricane Ivan necessarily help citizens prepare?

7. Margaret Heffernan, author of 'Uncharted', pointed her finger at decision makers by highlighting 'the distance between the powerful and the problem'. How was this illustrated in Hurricane Katrina?

8. The UK, 'Exercise Cygnus' and the U.S political battle between Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown both reveal problems in disaster preparedness. Prepare a list of bullet points identifying these.

9. 'Preparedness is possible'. Margaret Heffernan said, using Singapore as an example. Explain how this model could be translated to the New Orleans Hurricane preparedness programme.

10. In 2019 New Orleans was under water again. Why was this?

   The following news bulletins will help you comment fully on this recent hurricane and preparation deficiencies:

   www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=97&v=Yerbtvi2qwk&feature=emb_logo

   www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=1Rz5dXLPlMg&feature=emb_logo

Further work

- The Guardian The US won't be prepared for the next natural disaster

- Brookings When protecting people from natural disasters and environmental change means relocating them

- Define these terms; Community resilience, Integrated Risk Management, community preparedness/ risk Sharing, the Disaster/ Risk Management Cycle

- Use these terms and those in the Financial Times article in your Hazards case studies.

- Answer the question: The disaster response curve (The Park Model) has contributed to improved understanding and therefore management of the impact of tropical storms [20] and mark your answer

- The Guardian 'Short-sighted': UK cuts aid to project preparing cities for natural disaster