



Floodwater
Torrential rain can cause river banks to burst.

Long Island, USA
(Hurricane, 1938)
Fierce storm winds whipped up huge waves and ravaged the eastern coast of the United States. See pages 32–37.



Lisbon, Portugal
(Earthquake, 1755)
Earth tremors and fires devastated Portugal's capital. See pages 14–17.



Pompeii, Italy
(Volcano, AD 79)
Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman town of Pompeii under layers of ash and mud. See pages 6–13.



Hurricane winds
These winds can rip trees from the soil, toss cars around as if they were toys and tear roofs off buildings.



Lava flow
Red-hot lava may ooze gently from a volcano or be thrown high into the air by the force of the eruption.

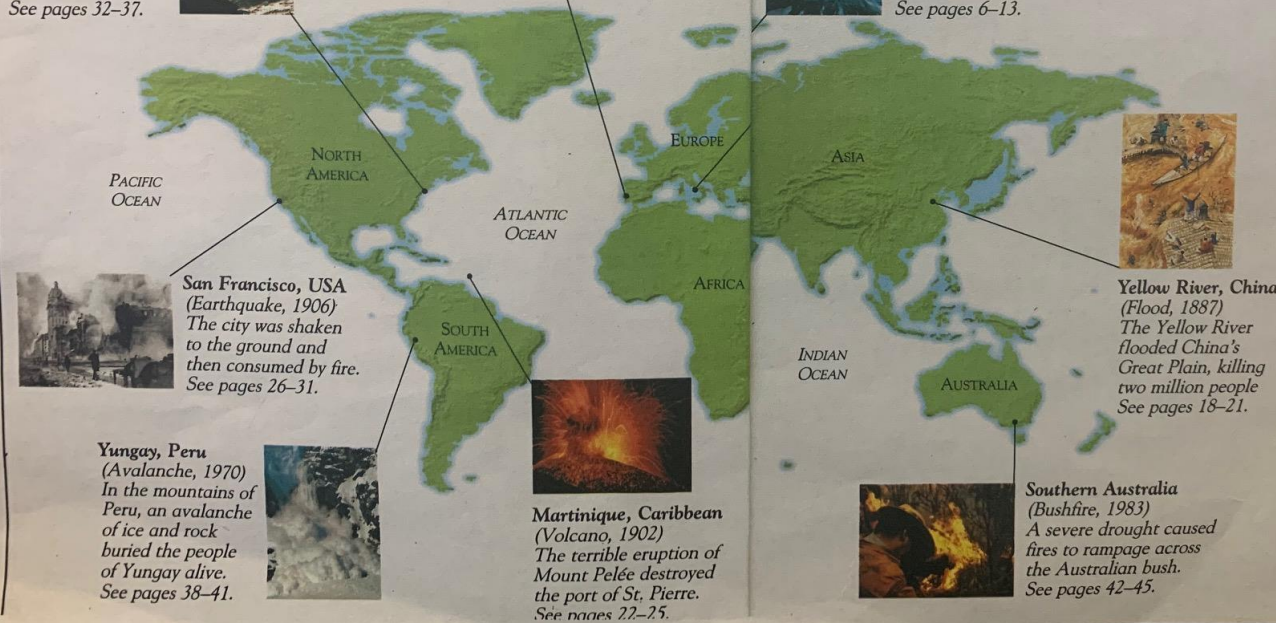
Planet power!

Volcanoes, earthquakes, tidal waves, hurricanes, flash floods, and forest fires – nature running wild is both spectacular and terrifying.

Despite all our modern resources, natural disasters still devastate lives.

Every year millions of people are killed, injured, or left homeless.

Here are the stories of some of the worst natural disasters in history. The map below tells you where the disasters occurred and where you can find them in this book. ❖



San Francisco, USA
(Earthquake, 1906)
The city was shaken to the ground and then consumed by fire. See pages 26–31.

Yungay, Peru
(Avalanche, 1970)
In the mountains of Peru, an avalanche of ice and rock buried the people of Yungay alive. See pages 38–41.



Martinique, Caribbean
(Volcano, 1902)
The terrible eruption of Mount Pelée destroyed the port of St. Pierre. See pages 22–25.



Southern Australia
(Bushfire, 1983)
A severe drought caused fires to rampage across the Australian bush. See pages 42–45.



Yellow River, China
(Flood, 1887)
The Yellow River flooded China's Great Plain, killing two million people. See pages 18–21.