



united nations map of the world



Members of the United Nations (As of May 1992)

Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission	Country	Date of Admission
Afghanistan	19 Nov. 1946	Brunei Darussalam	21 Sep. 1984	Denmark	24 Oct. 1945	Guinea-Bissau	17 Sep. 1974	Lebanon	24 Oct. 1945	Nepal	14 Dec. 1955	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16 Sep. 1980	Togo	20 Sep. 1960
Albania	14 Dec. 1955	Bulgaria	14 Dec. 1955	Djibouti	20 Sep. 1977	Guyana	20 Sep. 1966	Lesotho	17 Oct. 1966	Netherlands	10 Dec. 1945	Samoa	15 Dec. 1976	Trinidad and Tobago	18 Sep. 1962
Algeria	8 Oct. 1962	Burkina Faso	20 Sep. 1960	Dominica	18 Dec. 1978	Haiti	24 Oct. 1945	Liberia	2 Nov. 1945	New Zealand	24 Oct. 1945	San Marino	2 Mar. 1992	Tunisia	12 Nov. 1956
Angola	1 Dec. 1976	Burundi	18 Sep. 1962	Ecuador	24 Oct. 1945	Honduras	17 Dec. 1945	Libya	14 Dec. 1955	Nicaragua	24 Oct. 1945	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	16 Sep. 1975	Turkey	24 Oct. 1945
Antigua and Barbuda	11 Nov. 1981	Cambodia	14 Dec. 1955	El Salvador	21 Dec. 1945	Hungary	14 Dec. 1955	Liechtenstein	19 Nov. 1946	Niger	18 Sep. 1990	Saudi Arabia	24 Oct. 1945	Turkmenistan	2 Mar. 1992
Argentina	2 Mar. 1992	Cameroon	20 Sep. 1960	Equatorial Guinea	12 Nov. 1968	Iceland	30 Oct. 1945	Lithuania	28 Sep. 1950	Nigeria	17 Sep. 1991	Senegal	28 Sep. 1960	Uganda	25 Oct. 1962
Armenia	1 Nov. 1945	Canada	9 Nov. 1945	Ethiopia	17 Sep. 1991	India	24 Oct. 1945	Madagascar	24 Oct. 1945	Norway	7 Oct. 1960	Sierra Leone	24 Oct. 1945	United Arab Emirates	2 Mar. 1992
Australia	14 Dec. 1955	Cape Verde	20 Sep. 1960	Federated States of Micronesia	13 Nov. 1945	Indonesia	28 Sep. 1950	Malawi	20 Sep. 1960	Pakistan	23 Sep. 1947	Slovenia	28 Sep. 1991	United Kingdom	9 Dec. 1971
Austria	14 Dec. 1955	Chile	24 Oct. 1945	Fiji	17 Sep. 1991	Ireland	14 Dec. 1955	Malaysia	1 Dec. 1954	Panama	13 Nov. 1945	Somalia	27 Sep. 1961	United Republic of Tanzania	14 Dec. 1961
Azerbaijan	2 Mar. 1992	China	24 Oct. 1945	Finland	5 Nov. 1945	Israel	11 May 1949	Maldives	17 Sep. 1957	Papua New Guinea	10 Oct. 1975	South Africa	22 May 1992	Uruguay	24 Oct. 1945
Bahamas	21 Sep. 1971	Colombia	14 Dec. 1955	France	24 Oct. 1945	Italy	14 Dec. 1955	Mali	28 Sep. 1960	Paraguay	24 Oct. 1945	Spain	19 Sep. 1978	United States	24 Oct. 1945
Bangladesh	17 Sep. 1974	Costa Rica	20 Sep. 1960	Gabon	20 Sep. 1960	Jamaica	18 Sep. 1962	Marshall Islands	27 Oct. 1961	Peru	24 Oct. 1945	South Africa	7 Nov. 1945	Vanuatu	15 Sep. 1981
Barbados	27 Dec. 1945	Côte d'Ivoire	20 Sep. 1960	Gambia	21 Sep. 1965	Japan	18 Dec. 1956	Mauritania	27 Oct. 1961	Philippines	31 Oct. 1945	Sri Lanka	20 Sep. 1960	Venezuela	2 Mar. 1992
Belarus	24 Oct. 1945	Cuba	22 May 1992	Germany	8 Mar. 1957	Jordan	14 Dec. 1955	Mauritius	24 Apr. 1968	Portugal	14 Dec. 1955	Sudan	14 Dec. 1955	Viet Nam	30 Sep. 1947
Belgium	25 Sep. 1981	Cyprus	24 Oct. 1945	Ghana	25 Oct. 1945	Kazakhstan	16 Dec. 1992	Mexico	7 Nov. 1945	Republic of Korea	2 Mar. 1992	Swaziland	4 Dec. 1975	Yugoslavia	20 Sep. 1960
Belize	20 Sep. 1971	Czechoslovakia	24 Oct. 1945	Greece	17 Sep. 1974	Kyrgyzstan	2 Mar. 1992	Moldova	2 Mar. 1992	Romania	12 Nov. 1956	Sweden	24 Sep. 1968	Zaire	19 Nov. 1946
Benin	21 Sep. 1971	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	17 Sep. 1991	Grenada	21 Nov. 1945	Laos	12 Dec. 1958	Mongolia	12 Nov. 1956	Russian Federation	16 Sep. 1975	Syria	24 Oct. 1945	Zambia	20 Sep. 1960
Bhutan	14 Nov. 1945			Guatemala				Morocco	19 Apr. 1948	Saint Kitts and Nevis	23 Sep. 1983	Tajikistan	2 Mar. 1992	Zimbabwe	25 Aug. 1980
Bolivia	22 May 1992							Mozambique	23 Apr. 1990	Saint Lucia	18 Sep. 1979	Thailand	16 Dec. 1946		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17 Oct. 1966							Myanmar							
Botswana	17 Oct. 1966							Namibia							
Brazil	24 Oct. 1945														

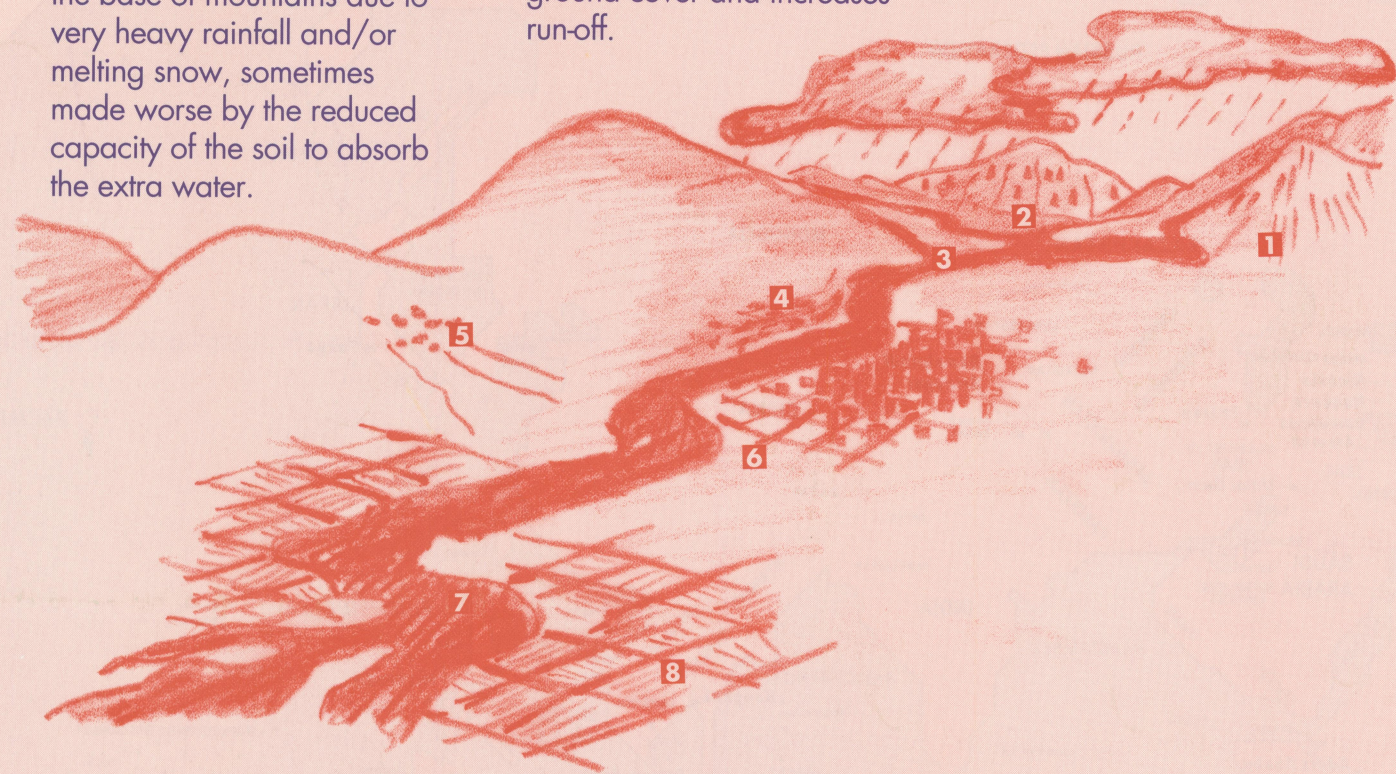
what causes a flood?

Most disasters are not entirely natural. Human activity can increase their risks and insufficient attention makes their effects much more severe. Study the sketch below and find out what causes a flood and what can be done to lessen damage from it. Ask your teacher if you find anything difficult to understand.

- 1 Poor farming techniques** increase soil erosion.
- 2 Deforestation of slopes** increases run-off.
- 3 Flash floods** are created at the base of mountains due to very heavy rainfall and/or melting snow, sometimes made worse by the reduced capacity of the soil to absorb the extra water.

- 4 Sediment** from erosion settles to the river bottom and gradually raises flood levels in the river.
- 5 Overgrazing** reduces ground cover and increases run-off.

- 6 Flood plain**
- 7 Delta**
- 8 Flood plains in rural areas** often attract farmers because of fertile land.



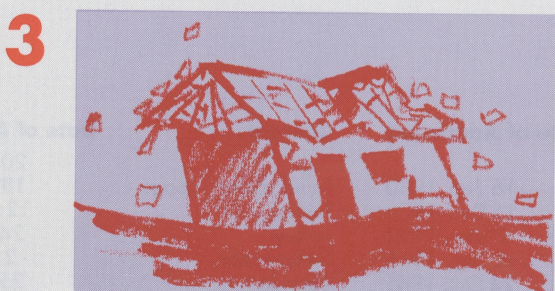
how an earthquake damages a house



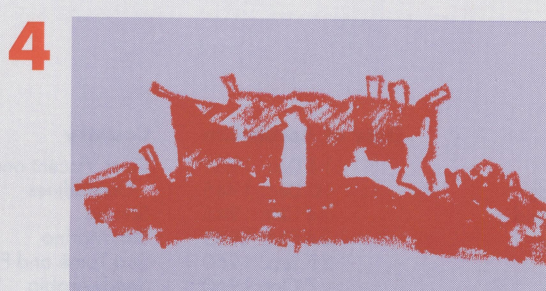
A vulnerable house consists of heavy materials stacked in place without a continuous frame for reinforcement.



The house sways with the motion of the earth during an earthquake.



The house cannot bear the growing pressure created by the continuous motion.



The roof and walls of the house collapse.

WHEN A COMMUNITY IS READY

Sonadia is a small island in Bangladesh right at the edge of the Bay of Bengal. In November 1970, a violent storm swept across the country, killing more than 500,000 people. The entire population of Sonadia — about 600 people — perished in the storm.

Twenty years later, in April 1991, another violent storm hit Sonadia and other coastal areas of Bangladesh. This time, everybody on the island was prepared. The weather office, working with neighbouring countries, had warned about the storm more than 72 hours in advance; the warning was repeated over radio and television. On Sonadia, however, very few people have a radio and no one has a TV set. But the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society had a wireless operator on Sonadia who monitored the report. When he heard the warning, the operator moved from house to house, telling the inhabitants about the danger and urging everyone on the island to take refuge in a cyclone shelter.

When the storm hit, practically everyone was safe inside the shelter. A tall building, strong enough to survive a heavy storm, it had been built a few years earlier. Many came with their precious possessions. Even cattle found safe refuge in a corner of the shelter.

The storm was extremely fierce. The wind blew at a speed of more than 220 kilometres per hour. The sea water, which was swept over the island, rose above 4.5 metres in places. But, thanks to the early warning and the preparedness of the villagers, not one life on Sonadia was lost.

For the people on the Japanese island of Kyushu, Mount Unzen was a daily reminder of the danger with which they lived. The volcano had been dormant for 198 years, but the islanders knew it could erupt one day. In November 1990, scientists first reported volcanic activity on Mount Unzen. Everybody was immediately alerted and emergency evacuation plans were made.

On 24 May 1991 the eruption started. The flow of lava, which continued for several weeks, threatened the villages at the foot of the mountain. But adequate precaution had already been taken. Villages under threat were declared "Strict Protection Areas"; residents were told to go to a neighbouring town declared a "Self-Evacuation Area"; all entry to the endangered villages was prohibited. To cope with the disaster, the Government also set up an emergency headquarters.

When the eruption was over, property worth many millions of dollars had been destroyed; the local economy was paralysed. But because everybody — the Government, scientists, relief organizations and, above all, the villagers themselves — was involved in early preparedness, damage to property was limited and many lives were saved.

On a cold and drizzling night in March 1987, a major earthquake rocked Ecuador, hitting five of its provinces. Several hundred people were killed or wounded, more than 15,000 homes were destroyed and an oil pipeline was ripped apart. Ecuador, a poor country, found itself in deep distress.

For all the loss of life and property, however, the disaster also brought local communities closer together. Through joint efforts with the United Nations, various foreign countries and voluntary organizations, people in the country's highlands and jungle zone started rebuilding their shattered lives.

Originally, most of the houses in the area had been built without any beam at the base of the roof. As a result, the weight of the roof was pushed out on the walls. In time of quakes, such houses easily fell apart.

The people in the area, with United Nations help, are now building quake-resistant houses. Unlike the old ones, these new houses have solid foundations and their walls are straight and uniform, composed of earth hard-packed into wooden moulds. Once the moulds are removed, the walls are sealed with a thin sand and cement covering. Locally grown eucalyptus trees, which are strong but flexible, serve as pillars. These houses are not only stronger, they are also cheaper.

Entire villages have become involved in the rebuilding. Inspired by what they call the "minga" spirit, inherited from their Indian ancestors, villagers meet once a week for a day of collective work. Women bake bread using wheat flour donated by a United Nations agency, and they all eat together as they work.

The introduction of new technology, a little help from outside and the traditional minga spirit are combined to rebuild homes and prepare villagers in Ecuador against any future disaster.