



Geography Knowledge Organiser

Year 6: Autumn Term

California (A region within North America)

Key Knowledge and Skills

California is a state located on the west coast of the United States of America.



California is split into different geographical regions consisting of: the Central Valley, the coastline, mountainous areas and deserts.

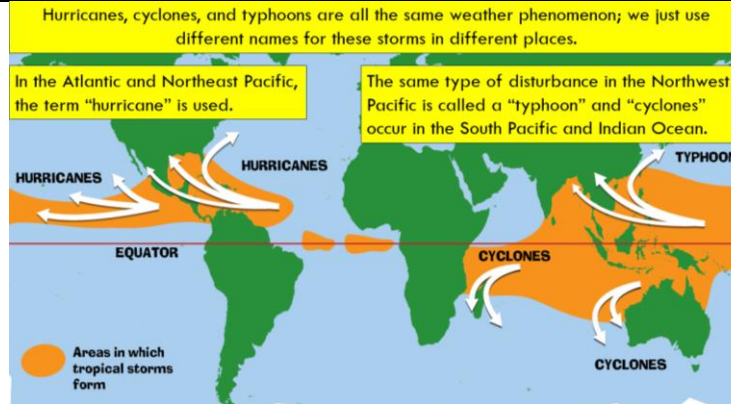
Death Valley is the hottest desert in North America and is in the eastern part of California. It is 3.4 million acres of land.

A large city within western California is called San Francisco, which has a famous bridge called the Golden Gate Bridge. Other cities include Los Angeles, San Jose and San Diego.

There are many different types of natural disasters. Some of these include:

- Earthquakes
- Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons
- Tsunamis and floods
- Volcanic eruptions
- Landslides, mudslides and avalanches.

Key Knowledge and Skills

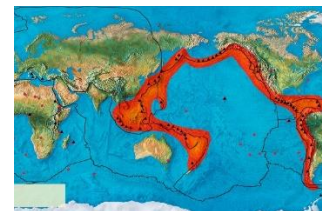


Earthquakes occur when tectonic plates collide under the surface of the earth.

Volcanoes can occur when two tectonic plates move away from each other causing a break in the earth's surface. They can also form when one plate descends beneath another plate and pushes up the land to form a volcano. Volcanoes can also form above a column of superheated magma. This is called a hot-spot volcano.

Tsunamis are a great surge of ocean water that crashes onto the land. These are formed when an earthquake occurs out at sea and forces tectonic plates collide and one plate forces the water up suddenly. Tsunamis can travel for hundreds of miles.

The Pacific Ring of Fire



Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Vocabulary	Definition
Climate	Weather conditions prevailing in area for a long period of time
Economic activity	The activity of making, providing, purchasing or selling goods or services.
Tectonic plate	Large pieces of the Earth's crust.
Magma	Molten rock beneath the surface of the earth.
Region	An area of land.
State	A region of the USA
Urban	Town and city areas
Rural	Countryside
River	a large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, lake or another river.
Valley	The lower part of land between hills or mountains.
Escarpment	A long, steep slope in the land.
Fault lines	The edge of tectonic plates and occur when different plates grind against each other.
Agriculture	The cultivation of soil for growing crops and rearing animals to provide food and other products.

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