

**Dealing with Disaster: How does Delaware Add Up? Looking at previous international and national disasters to see if Delaware is prepared**

*Michelle Wiedenmann*

With this unit, students will study various natural disasters have effected people in the past for a three week period in a 90 minute block. Students will first research the different types of natural disasters and determine what qualifies an event as a disaster. Next, students will examine specific international disasters to determine the various cause and effects relationships as a result of each event. Students will first examine the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami then compare circumstances to the 2011 Japanese Earthquake and tsunami to see what technology and safety protocol updates were made. Turning locally, we will read survivor accounts from Hurricane Katrina, first in the form of poetry, then in the form of letters to decipher the tone of these stories and to learn to empathize with the tragic circumstances the survivors had to face. After discussing all of these various events, we look locally at our own state and we will reflect on whether Delaware can withstand a sever storm such as Hurricane Sandy, Katrina or the tsunamis.