



Title: “It Happened in My Lifetime” (Part A)

Preview of Main Idea: Students are given the "Geohazard Event Timeline," they must choose one of the events from the timeline and do research to find a historical figure who was alive when the event took place. They must record facts about this person in relation to the geohazard event, such as: determining the age of the figure at the date of the event, and the distance from where the person lived to the event. Students are expected to learn how historical events and people overlapped in time, and understand geological occurrences in a historical context.

Connection with Curriculum: Geography, World History, Basic Algebra

Teaching Level: Grades 4-7

(This lesson can be modified for secondary students by including more detail.)

Standards Taught: Interpreting Historical Timelines, Conducting Historical Research, Map Skills and Spatial Awareness, Chronological Thinking

Materials: “Geohazard Event Timeline”, Lesson Plan (A) handout, encyclopedias or internet, World Atlas, ruler, History textbook

Objectives: Students are expected to learn how the internet, encyclopedias and maps can aid in researching people, places, and events in history. They will develop research skills, identify the time connection between people and events in history, learn how to find distances between places on a map, and record data from their research.

Opening the Lesson: Instructor Lecture- Introduce offshore geohazard events in a historical and geographic context using a world map.

- Offshore Geohazards are events that can occur from sudden changes in the earth under the ocean. Common causes are by earthquakes and landslides occurring far from the shore. These events can produce massive waves that devastate coastal communities. The recurrence of these events is infrequent, however they have affected locations in all parts of the world throughout history, similar to other natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes and floods.
- Use the Geohazard Timeline to show on the map, different parts of the world that were affected by Offshore Geohazards. Have the students name the continents, or countries that they recognize with each event.

- Discuss other Historical events that were happening in the world around the time of the Offshore Geohazards. Establish this historical connection with the students.

Developing the Lesson: Students can work alone or in small groups. They should each have a copy of the Lesson handout.

- Students should begin by choosing an Offshore Geohazard Event from the event time line. They should then use their History textbook to find a historical figure who was alive when the event took place.
- Students should record the name of the figure on their handout, and brief description of why this person was important, and where they were from.
- They should determine the age of the person when the event took place. (Subtracting the date the person was born from the date of the event)
- Students should find the geographic distance between their figure, and the event, or the distance that the person would have to travel to get to where the event took place. (They can do this by using the atlas and ruler. They should locate the two places on the map and measure the distance between them in inches, or cm with their ruler. They should then convert this measurement to miles or kilometers using the scale provided with the map.) They should record the distance that they measured, along with the scale used, and the resulting geographic distance.

Concluding the Lesson: The handouts should be collected, and reviewed for completion and effort. The lesson should be concluded with an open discussion calling on the students to see what historical figure they came up with, where they were located and what Offshore Geohazard happened during their figure's lifetime. This discussion will allow the students exposure to many different events in history and give them a sense of history in a geographic context.