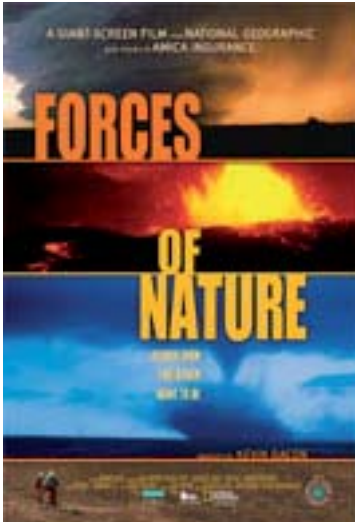




SCHOOL FILM SYNOPSIS

FORCES OF NATURE



The ground moves, mountains explode, the sky turns black and violent – paradoxically, the natural forces that helped create life on our green planet can also destroy it.

With National Geographic's trademark combination of scientific excellence, dramatic storytelling skill and human emotion, Forces of Nature will showcase the awesome spectacle of earthquakes, volcanoes and severe storms as we follow scientists on their quest to understand how these natural disasters are triggered.

VOLCANOES: On the Caribbean island of Montserrat we meet a volcanologist searching for clues that might foretell volcanic eruptions. Here, volcanoes have been erupting for nearly a decade and captured on the giant screen is the major 1995 eruption that took the lives of 19 people.

EARTHQUAKES: Halfway around the world in Istanbul Turkey, we meet a geophysicist who is studying the deadliest of all natural disasters: earthquakes. Just a few years ago, residents of Izmit, Turkey, awoke in horror to experience an earthquake 7.4 on the Richter Scale, lasting 48 seconds. With the aid of a simulation, students will experience the violent earthquake, as the floor buckles, the walls begin caving in and dust is exploding everywhere.



TORNADOES: Finally, we join a meteorologist in pursuit of an elusive yet deadly force of nature, tornadoes. Understanding exactly how a tornado is formed may enable meteorologists to predict their occurrence with enough lead-time to save people at risk. For several minutes, we witness a severe tornado ripping across the plains of South Dakota. Fortunately, no lives are lost in this occurrence, but several homes lie in the path of the tornado and we experience with humble amazement the extraordinary, destructive power of nature's fury.



To understand the origins of these forces of nature, students will travel back in time to the formation of the Earth four and a half billion years ago, through a very clever computer animation. The Earth, a massive, fiery orange ball, fills the screen, covered with ancient erupting volcanoes and seas of molten lava. As the atmosphere appears on screen, a blanket of sweeping storms and lightning flashes. We learn that the planet we call Earth, where life flourishes today, is the result of four and half billion years of activity by the immense forces of nature.

RATED PG

Running Time: 40 Minutes

For more information about the film, visit: www.destinationcinema.com

For an excellent website with information about natural disasters, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/forcesofnature/

Curriculum Links:

Science & Technology Stage 3 (An Ancient Land); **HSIE Stage 3** (Environments – natural changes on the environment eg. earthquakes, and how people respond to them)

Science Stage 4-5: Dynamic Structure of the Earth ie. plate tectonics; **Geography Stage 4-5** Physical Geography – Geomorphologic processes eg. plate tectonics)

Earth & Environmental Science Stage 6: Dynamic Earth, Planet Earth and its Environment – A Five Thousand Million Year Journey, Tectonic Impacts; **Senior Science Stage 6:** Disasters.

IMAX School Bookings

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