National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Zion National Park
Utah

Changing Landscapes - Images
Post Activity 2
It Happened Here

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Teacher's Answer Key

1. Landslide (Sentinel Slide)
2. Landslide (Sentinel Slide)
3. Rockfall (Weeping Rock)
4. Rockfall
5. Rockfall (Switchbacks)
6. Flashflood
7. Flashflood
8. Flashflood
9. Flashflood
10. Flashflood
11. Earthquake
12. Earthquake

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Writing Guide

Name _____Date_____

Just the Facts

Date and time of the hypothetical landscape changing event_____

Location (city, state, country)_____

Estimated impact

Deaths_____ Injuries_____ Property damage $_____

Date of last similar event in this region_____

Use the same facts above in each of the three variations, newspaper, scientific, and informal accounts. Use a separate piece of paper to write out each of the three accounts as instructed below.

1. Newspaper account: Intended for the general public, who need practical information. May appear immediately after the event, while the event is still occurring and emergency conditions are still in effect.

- Dateline (place and time of filing story)_____
- Lead sentence: Must be catchy, attention-grabbing. May be a particularly startling fact or a quotation (make it up) from a person in authority, an expert, or an eyewitness.
- Rest of lead paragraph: Must answer what, where, when, who was affected, and how. (May use quotations.)
- One or more body paragraphs: Provide background. Add more details on effects, quotations from more people, possible explanation, and analysis. Ask what did people hear, see, do? (Think of what people need to know—what to do, where to go, what to watch for.)
- Final sentence: Add the clincher; ends story with a punch. (Possibly a warning about more events?)

2. Scientific account: Intended for specialists; will probably appear well after the event has occurred.

- Lead paragraph: Must answer what, where, when, who was affected, and how. Likely to be heavy with data instead of quotations. (Make them up too, but keep them consistent with the basic facts)
- One or more body paragraphs: Provide background and analysis, more details on effects, maybe quotations from experts, scientific explanations, and hypotheses. (Will probably compare original and revised estimates of severity and effects, compare event to other similar events.)
- Final paragraph: Summarizes what scientific knowledge has been gained or what plans are underway to gather information as a result of the event.

3. Informal account: Letter intended for a friend, usually also written after the worst is over; may include humor or exaggeration.

[Your Address on Letterhead]
Name
Street no., Apt. no.
City/State/Zip

Date

Dear [name],

Your Friend [name]