

SECTION 1 GEOGRAPHY
GeoActivity

Use with Central America & the Caribbean Geography & History, Section 1.2, in your textbook.

Go to Interactive Whiteboard GeoActivities at myNGconnect.com to complete this activity online.



1.2 EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES

Graph the Economic Impact of Disasters

Natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions can cause many deaths. Repairs can take many years and cost billions of dollars to complete. These damages pose great risks to a country's economy. Read the passage about significant recent earthquakes in Central America and the Caribbean. Then complete the graph and answer the questions.

Central American and Caribbean Earthquakes

In December 1972, an earthquake shook the Nicaraguan capital city of Managua and killed more than 5,000 people. This earthquake left half of the city homeless and caused more than \$3 billion in damage. In 1976, a more powerful earthquake struck Guatemala, northeast of Guatemala City. More than 23,000 people died, and the damage was over \$2 billion. El Salvador lost 1,000 people and experienced more than \$2 billion in damage when an earthquake hit the capital city, San Salvador, in 1986. In January 2010, a major earthquake struck Haiti, near the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The city and the surrounding area were destroyed, and more than 200,000 people died. Experts predict that it will take 10 years to rebuild buildings, roads, and other structures needed to run the city. They also estimate that the earthquake caused about \$14 billion in damages.

- 1. Complete Graphs** Fill in the bar graph to show the economic damage caused by these earthquakes.
- 2. Analyze Data** How much more economic damage was caused by the 2010 Haiti earthquake than by the 1972 Nicaragua earthquake?

Major Earthquakes



- 3. Make Inferences** Even though the 1976 earthquake in Guatemala was more powerful than the 1972 earthquake in Nicaragua, why might it have caused less damage economically?

- 4. Analyze Cause and Effect** In addition to the immediate physical damage caused by an earthquake, what are other ways an earthquake could affect a country's economy?