

Access (ctrl-click) [Haiti Earthquake – January 12, 2010](#) to study this resource

1) Review your knowledge and understanding of the following terms:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Magnitude | Fault |
| Frequency | Plate boundary |
| Richter scale | Risk |
| Modified Mercalli Scale | Hazard |
| Epicentre | Vulnerability |
| Focus | Coping capacity |

2) Several factors contributed to the high death toll from the Haiti earthquake.

These include:

The size of the earthquake

Lack of preparation and education

The depth of the earthquake

Poorly constructed buildings

Slow response by aid agencies and governments

Limited or weak government

a) Try to rank the above factors (and any others you can think of) into an order ranging from **most important** to **least important** in terms of how much they contributed to the high death toll.

b) Now, for your top three factors, write one paragraph each to justify your choices – you will need to use words like ‘*because*’ and ‘*therefore*’ and ‘*so*’ in your response.

3) As you know from the Story Map, the large earthquake of January 2010 was not the only disaster to have hit Haiti.

a) What is a disaster hotspot? Define this term carefully.

b) Is Haiti a disaster hotspot? What is your evidence for this? The **Updates** tab at the end of the Story Map may help you with this, as may [this link](#).

Extension activity

4) The international response to the disaster was criticised for being slow, muddled and often making things worse. To what extent do you agree with this view?

Your response will have to look at two sides of the argument **AND** then arrive at a judgement. You will have to gather information – so here are some starting points:

| | |
|----------|--|
| Agree | Uncoordinated. Orphans. Delays. Cholera. |
| Disagree | Massive scale. Unprecedented. Poor local knowledge. No governance or local capacity (contrast Japan’s response to the 2011 earthquake). Damage to port facilities, roads and bridges |