

# FT for schools: Iceland on high alert from seismic activity

This resource was written by Alasdair Monteith, Head of Geography, Gordonstoun school.

## Go to

[www.ft.com/content/8709c3a2-0085-48cb-88b2-9052ecf59480?shareType=nongift](http://www.ft.com/content/8709c3a2-0085-48cb-88b2-9052ecf59480?shareType=nongift) and read about the past few weeks of seismic activity in Iceland.

## Specification links

AQA

A level 3.1.5 Hazards 3.1.5.4 Seismic hazards *The nature of seismicity and its relation to plate tectonics.*

Edexcel A

A level Topic 1 Tectonic Processes and Hazards Enquiry question 1: Why are some locations more at risk from tectonic hazards? 1.3 *Physical processes explain the causes of tectonic hazards.*

OCR

A level Topic 3.5 Hazardous Earth 3. What are the main hazards generated by seismic activity? 3.a. *There is a variety of earthquake activity and resultant landforms and landscapes.*

Eduqas (WJEC)

A level Section A Tectonic Hazards 3.1.3 Earthquakes, processes, hazards, and their impacts. *Use examples of at least two contrasting contexts to demonstrate the varied degree of risk and impacts of earthquake activity.*

## Activity

Answer the following questions using the link above.

1. Describe the location of the recent earthquake swarms in Iceland.
2. Why is a potential eruption along the Reykjanes peninsula expected to be different to recent eruptions in Iceland, such as Eyjafjallajökull in 2010?
3. Outline the potential economic benefits associated with an eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula.

## Further work

- Read [South-west Iceland is shaking – and may be about to erupt](#). Answer the additional questions below.
  - Why are there huge uncertainties associated with any eruption in the SW of Iceland?
  - If an eruption does occur why is it likely to have less impact on international travel than recent eruptions such as Eyjafjallajökull in 2010?
- Listen to [the podcast series on volcanology basics](#) hosted by two geoscientists, Erik Klemetti and Janine Krippner. It is a great way to expand your knowledge of volcanoes.
- One of the best ways to keep track of new volcano developments in Iceland is by following academics and researchers on Twitter. Here are some suggestions:



- Dr Dave McGarvie [@subglacial](#), Lancaster University
- Dr John Stevenson [@volcan01010](#), BSG software developer and geologist
- Buy and read *Eruptions that shook the world* by Clive Oppenheimer and/or *Island on Fire: The Extraordinary Story of a Forgotten Volcano That Changed the World* by Alexandra Witze.
- Watch and listen to our free recent Hazards [A narrated slideshow from Dr Matthew Blackett](#) lecture, from Coventry University, to learn more about the research and monitoring of Geohazards.