



What is "El Niño"?

"El Niño" is the name of a change in normal weather patterns. It is cyclical, which means it comes and it goes regularly, like Christmas, although it does not happen every year and it does not always start on the same date. It is common for it to happen around Christmas, which is why it was called El Niño. "El Niño" means "the Boy Child", referring to Baby Jesus, although it has nothing to do with little boys or girls.

"El Niño" happens when the surface waters of the Pacific Ocean getting warmer than usual, off the coasts of Peru and Ecuador. This can cause floods, drought, wildfires and other hazards in Latin America and other parts of the world.

Scientists later discovered another phenomenon, which is the opposite of "El Niño", so they called it "La Niña", which means "the Girl Child.". "El Niño" warms up the water, "La Niña" makes it colder.

How do we measure the intensity and magnitude of earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes?

The Richter Scale is used for measuring the magnitude, or amount, of energy released by an earthquake. To date, the worst recorded quakes have registered 9 on this scale.

The Modified Mercalli Scale is used for measuring the intensity or amount of shaking of an earthquake, in other words, the effects or damage it causes. It goes from I to XII.

The Fujita Scale is used to classify tornadoes: F0, F1, F2, F3, F4 and F5.

The Saffir-Simpson Scale is used to classify hurricanes based on wind speed: Category 1 (119-153 Km/h) Category 2 (154-177 Km/h), Category 3 (178-209 Km/h), Category 4 (210-249 Km/h) and Category 5 (250 Km/h or more).

ALPHABET SOUP

To learn more about erosion, fill in the missing words. Clue: every word has its own colour, and goes from left to right and from top to bottom.

E R N H L G D R E
 R A F O U O O L U
 N R A S O D T M E
 C S U V A T I O A
 N V R T O E I O A
 E N O N S L N M R

- 1 The continuous wearing away of the soil by heavy rain, wind, or poor land use can cause
- 2 Erosion can be the result either of or causes.
- 3 Heavy rains wash away the protective and make the land prone to erosion.
- 4 is an important activity to conserve soil and prevent erosion.