

Geography in the News

April 2025

Massive earthquake devastates Myanmar and beyond

Geography in the News aims to stimulate discussion about the relevance of geography and its importance in helping us to make sense of the world around us.

The tragic impacts of the recent earthquake in Myanmar are yet to be fully understood. Students might want to discuss causes, impacts and on-going responses to the disaster whilst being sensitive to the huge personal loss and tragedy for so many. However, exploring in real-time, [real stories](#) at this time can help [foster empathy and reconnect young people with humanity](#).



Bogyoke Market, Myanmar

Article: This issue relates to an article, written by Esme Stallard and Vicky Wong for the BBC.

Introduction

This article explores the impacts of the 28th March 2025 earthquake on both Myanmar and Bangkok. [Click here to access the article](#)

Discussion prompts

Explain how the movement of tectonic plates caused the earthquake in Myanmar.

Explain how the geology in Bangkok influenced the intensity of the earthquake's shaking.

Explain why Myanmar is considered a geologically "active" region in terms of tectonic plate movement.

Explain the social and economic impacts of the earthquake in Myanmar

Explain the reasons which contributed to the widespread collapse of buildings during the earthquake.

Explain the responses to the earthquake considering both local and international efforts.

Specification links:

GCSE B

1.9a Primary and secondary impacts of earthquakes on property and people in emerging / developing countries.

1.9b Management of earthquake hazards, in emerging or developing country including short-term relief and long-term planning preparation and prediction.

A Level

1.6 Development and governance are important in understanding disaster impact and vulnerability and resilience.

1.7b Tectonic mega-disasters can have regional or even global significance in terms of economic or human impacts