

confronting disaster

LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To discover ways that individuals are adapting in the aftermath of storms and how community involvement builds resilience for future disasters.

VIDEOS:



Forecasting Change (India) In the aftermath of two devastating storms Maharashtra learns to forecast weather to help her fishing community in Southern India.



Developing a Barrier Island (USA) Three writers speak of the interconnected history of development and storms on a barrier island in New Jersey.



Displaced Lives (Bangladesh) Prabal Barua pressures the government to allocate land and services for displaced coastal residents, many of whom end up in slum areas adjacent to big cities.



Dreaming of Trees (India) After a devastating cyclone, Sefali a youth organizer in the Sunderbans, initiates a massive tree planting campaign to protect her community from the next big storm.



Confronting Disaster Together (USA) After Hurricane Sandy, local builder Joe Mangino co-founded a grassroots initiative to bypass government bureaucracy and get to work rebuilding his community.



Ecologies of Change (Sundarban Islands) Educators Krishna Ashor and Savita Vijayakumar explain how mangroves roots hold the shore together.

QUESTIONS:

- Why did the protagonists in the videos decide to become involved in their communities? List some of strategies and tools they are using.
- How did these organizers change after becoming involved?
- Have you faced a disaster in your community? What kinds of positive responses did you observe?
- Who are the individuals in your community who help build resilience?

ACTIVITIES:

- Find out what emergency plans exist in your school or community to respond to a natural disaster. Evaluate the plan.
- What communication systems need to be in place before and after any disaster? Identify steps your school might take to feel better prepared (first aid course, emergency shelter or communication plan etc).

RESOURCES:

- Disaster Resilience Journal disaster-resilience.com
- Red Cross ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/preparing-for-disaster
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr

KEYWORDS:

resilience, disaster, storm, preparedness, disaster risk reduction, mitigation