

# Virtual Field Trip Lesson Overview

Grades

1-3



## Earthquakes and Reelfoot Lake

Between December of 1811 and February of 1812, a natural catastrophe struck the border of Missouri and Tennessee with a strength unprecedented in recorded history. Students will endeavor to learn what causes earthquakes and the timescales

and patterns with which they operate. Students will learn how the Great Earthquakes permanently changed the topography of this region and learn of safe practices they can use while living in a region where earthquakes still take place.

This program will use a variety of models and exercises to explain to young children how earthquakes occur, why they occur the way they do, and how they shaped the landscape and geography of Tennessee by helping to create Reelfoot Lake. Students will learn about the differing strengths of rocks, about tectonic plates, and the ways and reasons rocks slowly build up energy and finally fracture to create an earthquake. How the settlers of the 1800's reacted to and were affected by the earthquakes over the short and long term will also be discussed.

## Standards Covered:

**1.S.8** Discuss the Importance of safety rules in home, school, and the community

**G.1.13** Distinguish the difference between a lake, mountain, ocean, and river.

**H.1.25** Compare ways people lived in the past to how they lived today, including: forms of communication, modes of transportation, and types of clothing.

**2.S.8** Identify ways to reduce the risk of injuries and death from injury

**G.2.18** Analyze how the location of regions affects the way people live, including their: food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and recreation.

**2.ESS1.1** Recognize that some of Earth's natural processes are cyclical while other have a beginning and an end. Some events happen quickly, while others occur slowly over time.

**3.S.8** Demonstrate appropriate choices related to reducing unintentional injuries

**G.T.3.11** Identify major physical features of the U.S., including: Rivers - Colorado, Mississippi, Ohio, Rio Grande

**C.E.G.H.P.T.3.31** Describe life on the Tennessee frontier and reasons why settlers moved west.

**3.ESS3.1** Explain how natural hazards (fires, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods) impact humans and the environment.

To sign up for this virtual field trip lesson, please **fill out this form**, or contact us at [education@discoveryparkofamerica.com](mailto:education@discoveryparkofamerica.com) or 731-885-5455.



830 Everett Blvd  
Union City, TN 38261  
731.885.5455  
[discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com)