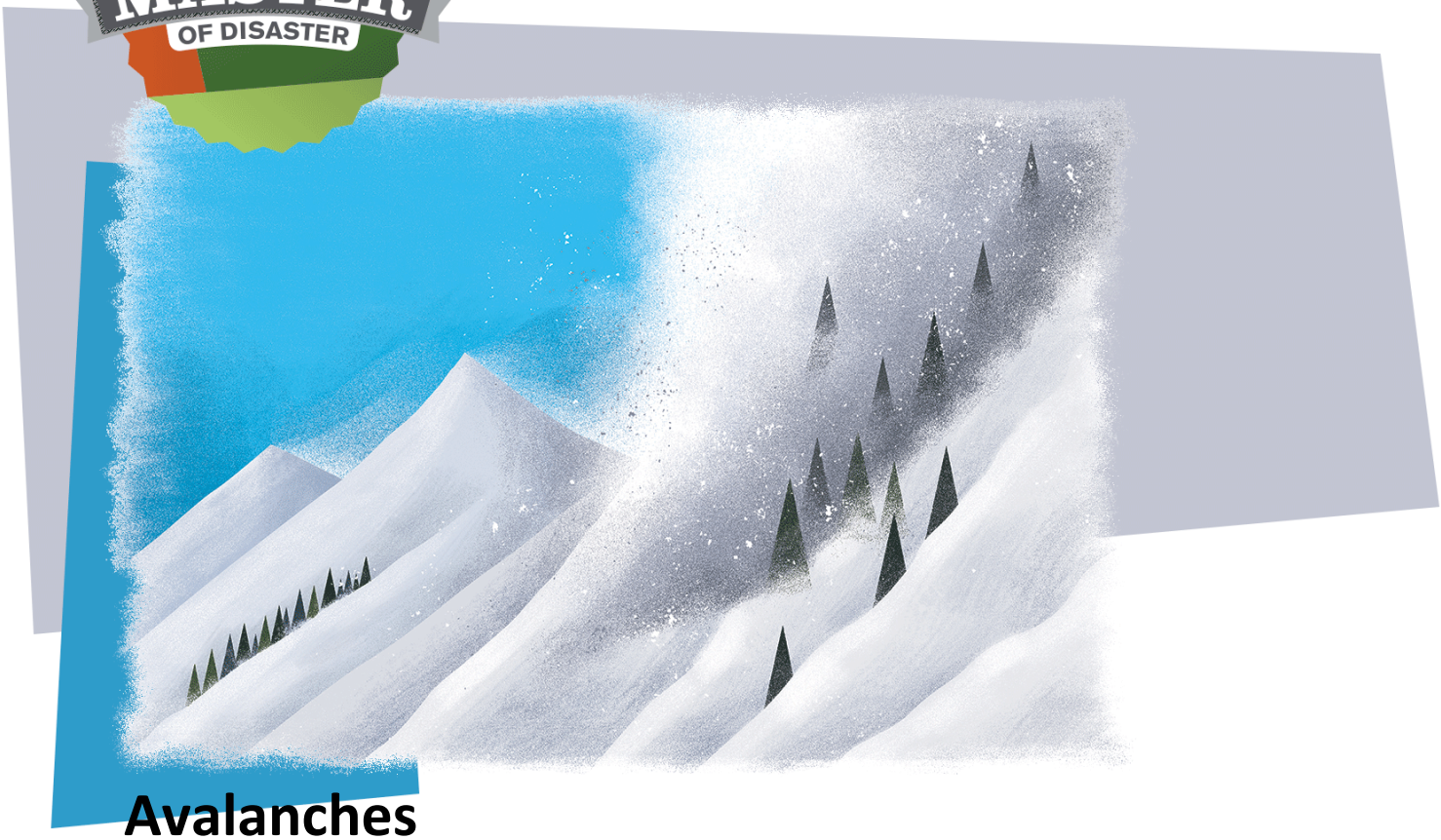
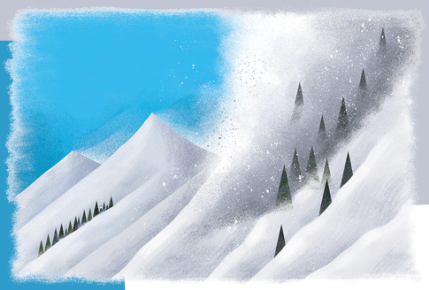


Avalanches

Avalanches are caused by four factors: a slope, snow cover, a weak layer in the snow cover and a trigger. The trigger is usually a person – snowmobilers, climbers, snowboarders, snowshoers, skiers or hikers. Contrary to what you see in the movies, noise does not trigger avalanches!

Dry slab avalanches account for almost all avalanche fatalities. A slab avalanche is a cohesive chunk of snow sliding as a unit on top of weaker snow – imagine a dinner plate sliding off a table with the victim in the middle of the plate. Dry slab avalanches can travel up to 130 km/h and once the snow stops moving, it settles like concrete and makes movement for anyone trapped inside next to impossible.



Avalanches | Worksheet

Answer the following questions using what your teacher has taught you about this hazard and what you've learned through your own independent research.

1. Give a description of how this hazard happens and why:

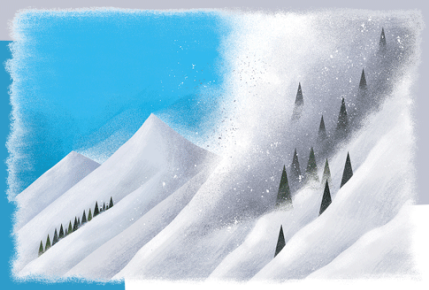
2. Are there any warning signs that this hazard is on its way or may occur where you live?

3. What are some trusted organizations that you could go to for information about this hazard?

4.
Name a time and place where this hazard has occurred in the past and one thing we can learn from that event:

Place: Time/Year:

What can we learn:



5. What can you do to prepare for this hazard before it happens?

6. Write a description of a plan you might discuss with your family to prepare for this hazard:

7. What did you learn about this hazard that you did not know before this lesson?

8. What do you still wonder about this hazard?