DEBATE TOPIC - Are disasters natural?

UNIT ENQUIRY - What are the risks with our energy consumption?

Lesson 1 - **Why is nuclear waste dangerous?**

1. Nuclear waste remains radioactive for thousands of years.
2. The cost of decommissioning nuclear power stations and storing waste if paid for by the taxpayer rather than energy companies.
3. Sellafield in England is one of the largest nuclear decommissioning sites in the world but the plant is in a very poor state of disrepair.

Lesson 2 - **What turned the Tohoku earthquake into a mega disaster?**

1. Natural hazards can turn into disasters.
2. Disasters can turn into mega disasters if they have global consequences.
3. The Tohoku earthquake led to a nuclear accident at the Fukushima power plant, which led to an energy crisis when Germany and Japan shut down their nuclear programmes.

Lesson 3 - **What are the impacts of oil spills?**

1. The Deepwater Horizon Disaster occurred in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and remains the largest oil spill in human history.
2. It had significant social, environmental, and economic impacts at different scales.
3. Today, the consequences are still being felt.

Lesson 4 - **Is AI a blessing or a curse for our environment?**

1. AI can help us fight climate change by developing more sustainable solutions.
2. AI has significant environmental impacts due to its electricity and water consumption.
3. Geothermal energy, awareness, and government policies can ensure AI becomes more sustainable.