Standard 8.53 Lesson

Say Thanks to the Authors
Click http://www.ck12.org/saythanks
(No sign in required)
8.53 Write a narrative with supporting text describing the effects of the New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-12 on the land and people of Tennessee. (G,H,TN)

***EXTENDED RESPONSE LESSON

Watch this YouTube about the New Madrid Earthquake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSG5Q03n13U

This video lasts about 26 minutes, but the best part regarding the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811, ends at about 11 minutes.
FIGURE 1.2
The map shows the strength for the 7.2 New Madrid earthquake that happened on December 16, 1811.

Read the information form TN History for Kids. The history, effect and first hand accounts are included.

http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/insearchof/new_madrid_earthquake

In addition to being a Shawnee Chief, Tecumseh also told of a great and powerful earthquake that would happen along the Mississippi River. He even predicted the year and the approximate time. He said that the quakes would happen during the winter in 1811 and then into 1812. He prophesied that the quakes would destroy the white settlements in that region. Most of the settlers who lived along the Mississippi, had never experienced an earthquake and didn’t even have an idea about what an earthquake was.

As Tecumseh had predicted, three earthquakes came. The first was in December 1811 and then another in January 1812 and February 1812. Homes were destroyed, deep cracks opened in the ground, islands in the Mississippi River disappeared, and there was terrible destruction.

The land flooded and for a while, the Mississippi River flowed backwards. When the Mississippi River shifted, a new lake was formed - Reelfoot Lake.

Scientists believe that the earthquakes of 1811 and 1812, were the strongest earthquakes east of the Rocky Mountains. People felt the earthquakes from hundreds of miles away. The force of the quakes caused church bells to ring in Boston, Massachusetts.

Strange Happenings From the Earthquake - New Madrid, Missouri


First Hand Accounts of the Earthquake taken from
Table 1.1:

"I resolved to wait until the morning, and caused the boat to be moored to a small island, about 500 yards above the entrance into the channel. After supper we went to sleep as usual; about ten o’clock, and in the night, I was awakened by a most tremendous noise, accompanied by so violent agitation of the boat that it appeared in danger of upsetting. Before I could quit the bed, or rather the skin, upon which I lay, the four men who slept in the other cabin rushed in, and cried out in the greatest terror....I passed them with some difficulty, and ran to the door of the cabin, where I could distinctly see the river agitated as if by a storm....I could distinctly hear the crash of falling trees, and the screaming of the wild fowl on the river, but found that the boat was still safe at her moorings."

John Bradbury (1819), travels in the interior of North America, 1809 through 1811

- See more at: http://storymaps.esri.com/new-madrid/#sthash.C0MV6S1f.dpuf

West Tennessee

Table 1.2:

"Cracks are yet in the earth in place 18 feet wide...such large quantities of white sand have been thrown up that in many places that was formerly rich land looks like a sand beach."

Extraction of a letter written by a gentleman from west Tennessee to his friend in Knoxville, January 25, 1812, Knoxville Gazette, February 10, 1812

- See more at: http://storymaps.esri.com/new-madrid/#sthash.C0MV6S1f.dpuf

Nashville, Tennessee

Table 1.3:

"An alarming earthquake was felt in this town and the adjoining country as far as we have heard, about 15 m past two o’clock yesterday morning. The shocks, which continued (until) after day, were some of them very severe—so much so that the heaviest houses seemed to be racked to pieces, however we have heard of no real injury sustained, except the fall of some chimneys in the country."

Account of the December 16, 1811, main shock, The Clarion & Tennessee Gazette, December 17, 1812
- See more at:  http://storymaps.esri.com/new-madrid/#sthash.C0MV6S1f.dpuf

**Links to information about the New Madrid Earthquakes**

http://tn.gov/tsla/exhibits/disasters/newmadrid.htm

http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/insearchof/new_madrid_earthquake