

TEACHER SHEET: Perfect Disaster: Solar Storm (Discovery Channel, 2006)

This 45 minute video dramatically describes a scenario in which New York City is overwhelmed by a solar storm, causing panic and chaos. As you watch, try to get a sense of how likely a major storm is and how it might affect you in your daily life.

- 1) What crashes into the cemetery? *satellite*
- 2) What harmless and beautiful event could signal the onset of a solar storm?
Aurora Borealis
- 3) Which country suffered a significant blackout in 1989?
Canada
- 4) True or False? This film is a recreation of an event that actually occurred in New York City. *False*
- 5) What part of the Earth protects us from **most** solar storms?
Magnetosphere or magnetic field
- 6) What can the ACE satellite do to help us prepare for solar storms?
Measure the speed, composition and density of a CME and send that information to Earth, to aid in making predictions
- 7) Is there a high or low likelihood that a **catastrophic** solar storm will affect New York City in the next 10 years? *low*
- 8) Can you think of other recent disasters that people were aware of, but thought could not happen to them? *Possibilities could include Hurricane Katrina, The Asian tsunami of 2005 or even 9/11*
- 9) This film has been created in a style that has become familiar on TV over the last few years. Can you name other shows or movies that blend science and entertainment in doomsday scenarios?

“It Could Happen Tomorrow” on the Weather Channel
Movies such as The Core, The Day After Tomorrow, Deep Impact, Armageddon
- 10) How would YOU be affected in your own home if power was lost for days or weeks? List specific issues you and your family would have.

Possibilities include loss of electricity, heat, air conditioning, water, long term food supply, wastewater treatment, entertainment, medical services, etc.