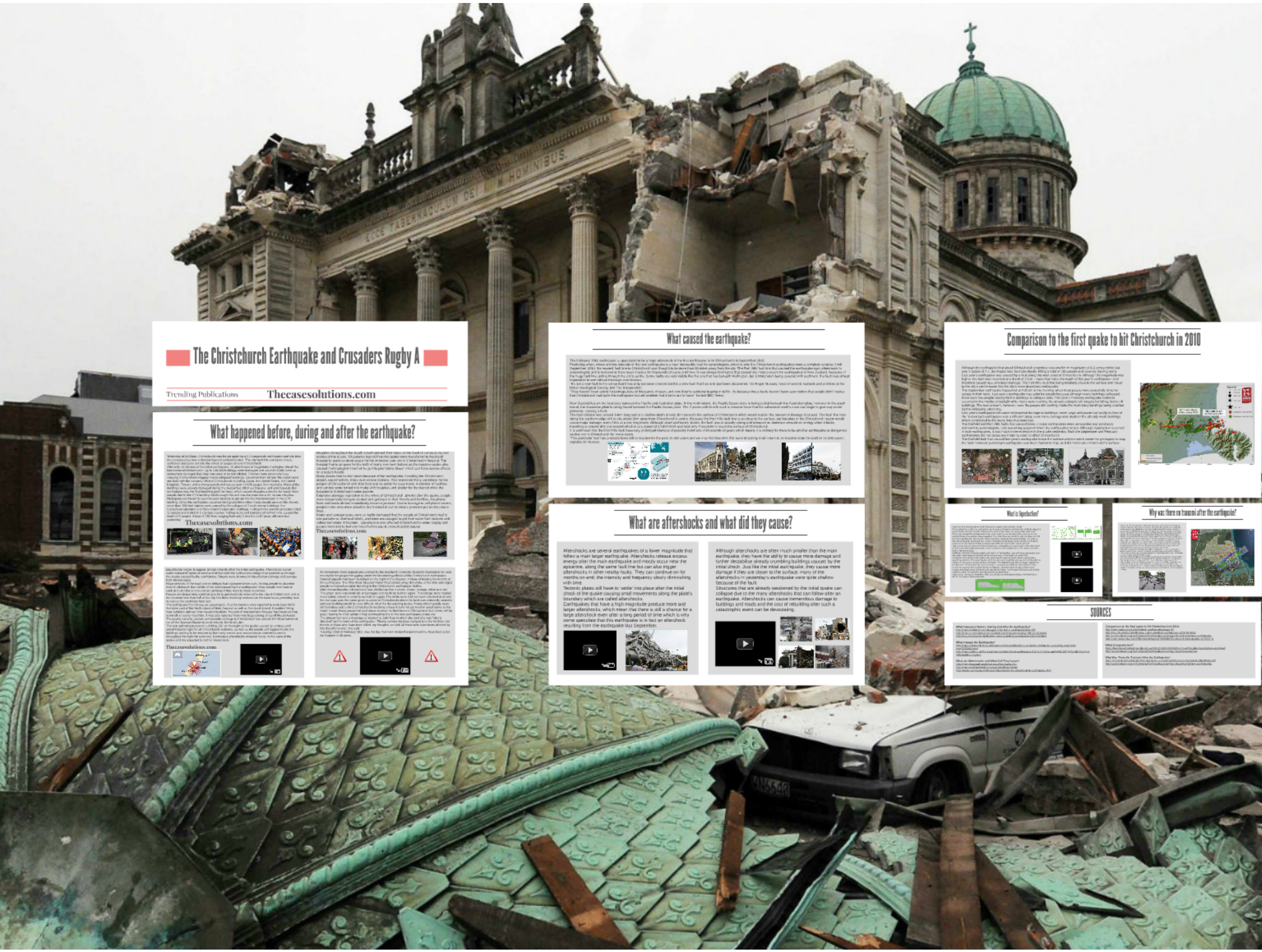
The Christchurch Earthquake and Crusaders Rugby A
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The Christchurch Earthquake and Crusaders Rugby A

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What happened before, during and after the earthquake?

Yesterday at 12:51pm, Christchurch was hit yet again by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake and this time the consequence was a disaster beyond comprehension. The city went into complete chaos; confusion and panic set into the minds of people all over Christchurch.
After only 10 minutes of the initial earthquake, 10 aftershocks of magnitude 4 or higher shook the foundation of Christchurch. Up to 100,000 buildings were damaged and around 10,000 were so extensively damaged that they now need to be demolished. Firemen were extremely busy rescuing the hundreds trapped inside collapsed buildings. Countries from all over the world came into help with the recovery effort of Christchurch including Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, and a strong search and rescue team of 148 people from Australia. Many of the

Hospitals throughout the South Island opened their doors to the flood of seriously injured victims of the quake. 10 patients injured from the quake were transferred to Auckland hospital to open up more space for the intensive care unit in Christchurch Hospital. The hospital had to prepare for the birth of many new born babies as the massive quake also caused many pregnant women to go into premature labour which can have severe effects on a baby's health.
Many places had to shut down because of the earthquake, including the Christchurch airport, supermarkets, trains and service stations. This worsened living conditions for the people of Christchurch with little food and no petrol for easy travel. A number of facilities

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Many places had to shut down because of the earthquake, including the Christchurch airport, supermarkets, trains and service stations. This worsened living conditions for the people of Christchurch with little food and no petrol for easy travel. A number of facilities and centres were turned into make-shift hospitals and shelter for the injured while the hospitals in Christchurch were packed.

Extensive damage was taken to the whole of Christchurch. Shortly after the quake, people were desperately trying to contact and get back to their friends and families, the phone lines and roads almost immediately became jammed. Due to damage to cell phone towers, people in the area were asked to text instead of call to reduce pressure put on the phone lines.

Water and sewage pipes were so badly damaged that the people of Christchurch had to use portable or chemical toilets, and were encouraged to get their water from tankers and collect rain water in buckets. Liquefaction also affected Christchurch's water supply and people were told to boil any water before use to prevent safety issues.

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Liquefaction began to appear almost instantly after the initial earthquake. Aftershocks turned water-saturated layers of sand and silt beneath the surface into sludge that squirted up through the cracks caused by the earthquake. Streets were drowned in liquefaction damage and sewage from broken pipes.

Huge crevices in the road and on bridges had appeared under cars, forcing people to abandon them in ditches in the middle of the road caused by the earthquake. Most people now have to walk or try to bike on the uneven surfaces if they want to travel anywhere.

People are desperately continuing to try to get electricity restored to the city of Christchurch and at the moment less than half of the city has their electricity restored as the main focus yesterday was to rescue the countless lives lost.

The earthquake that hit was so catastrophic, that the tremors were reported to even been felt in the lower part of the North Island of New Zealand as well as the South Island. A resident living near Lyttleton claimed that massive boulders “the size of two-bedroom houses” had been coming down off a nearby mountain. It was also reported there was huge caving of ice off Mount Aoraki.

The quake not only caused considerable damage to Christchurch but caused 30 million tonnes of ice off the Tasman Glacier to crash into its Terminal Lake.

The rain and temperature of a chilling 12C on the night of the quake caused an anxious and uncomfortable night for all Christchurch residents, as well as the people still trapped inside the buildings waiting to be rescued by the many search and rescue teams ordered to search throughout the night for survivors. Continuous aftershocks wreaked havoc in the wake of the quake and are expected to last for weeks now.

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