



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “**Earthquakes**” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “**Earthquakes**” unit offers **14 pages**.

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EARTHQUAKES



EARTHQUAKES



Faults are weak spots in the earth's crust. Where these faults are is where earthquakes usually happen. One of the best known faults is the San Andreas Fault in California.

The San Andreas Fault is 600 miles or 970 kilometers long. It is where two plates, the **Pacific Plate** and the **North American Plate** meet. Scientists who study earthquakes often measure earthquake activity near faults. Their hope is to be able to predict earthquakes. Unfortunately, there has been little success in knowing for certain when an earthquake will occur.

There is only one time when predicting an earthquake was a success. Three million people in China were evacuated hours before an earthquake destroyed their city in 1975. Some people believe that earthquakes are coming when animals act in odd ways or when the level of water in wells change. When such things happen and an earthquake is predicted people often panic. Such panic can be very dangerous.



Read each sentence. Fill in the missing word. Write your answer on the line.

1. _____ are weak spots in the earth's crust.
2. _____ million people were evacuated in China before an earthquake.
3. The _____ Fault is 600 miles long.
4. Scientists hope to predict _____.
5. Some people believe that earthquakes are coming when _____ act in an odd way.
6. When an earthquake is predicted some people _____.

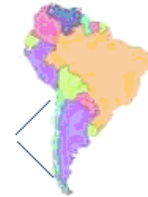
EARTHQUAKES

MEASURING EARTHQUAKES

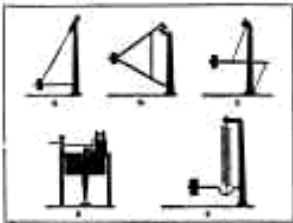
There are two scales used to measure earthquakes. One is the Mercalli scale, the other is the Richter scale. These scales describe the damage an earthquake has done.

The Richter scale is more commonly used. It tells the **magnitude** - how big or small - an earthquake is. It begins with the number 1.

1960 Chile Earthquake 9.5



The higher the Richter number, the greater the damage an earthquake has caused. The highest Richter measurement on record was in Chile (South America). That 1960 earthquake measured 9.5 on the Richter scale.



Another measure of earthquakes is a tool called a seismograph. Seismologists are scientists who study earthquakes. Seismographs tell about waves that earthquakes create. Different waves have different forces.

The force or power of an earthquake is not the only reason that the earthquakes cause damage. Often buildings have weak foundations like loose gravel or sand that can't hold up to an earthquake's vibrations.

Some buildings are poorly constructed so they aren't strong enough to stay standing.

Earthquakes damage buildings and kill people, but more lives can be lost during aftershocks.



Aftershocks are small earthquakes that follow big ones.

EARTHQUAKES

CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

core
crust

focus
rocks

plates
scales

pressure
earthquake

