

Subject Specific Vocabulary

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| Earthquake | A sudden violent shaking of the ground, typically causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action. |
| Epicenter | The point on the earth's surface directly above the origin of an earthquake |
| Shockwave | Is an area of very high pressure moving through the air, earth, or water. It is caused by an explosion or an earthquake, or by an object travelling faster than sound. |
| Magnitude | Is a number that characterizes the relative size of an earthquake - power and strength. |
| Richter - | The Richter magnitude scale is a scale of numbers used to tell the power (or magnitude) of earthquakes. |
| Mercalli scale | Is a seismic intensity scale used for measuring the intensity of shaking produced by an earthquake. |
| Tectonic plate | Earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called plates. All of Earth's land and water sit on these plates. The plates are made of solid rock. Under the plates is a weaker layer of partially melted rock. The plates are constantly moving over this weaker layer. |
| Seismograph | An instrument for automatically detecting and recording the intensity, direction, and duration of a movement of the ground, especially of an earthquake. |

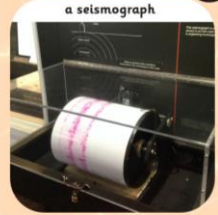
Year 3: Geography Knowledge Mat - Weather around the World: Earthquake

How strong is it?

There are two main ways to measure the power of an earthquake.

Machines called seismographs measure the power of an earthquake at its epicentre on a scale called the Richter scale.

Another measure is the Mercalli scale, and this is based on people's observations during an earthquake.



Can you sort out the different strengths of the Mercalli scale into the right order?

What should you do?

Drop, Cover and Hold
Duck under a strong table or desk. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Stay away from windows.

Stay Calm
Keep calm and carry on. Make safe choices for yourself and those around you.

Stay Put
Shelter in place. Whether you're in a car, in bed, or in a public place. Do not try to run out of the building during strong shaking, hold tight until the shaking stops.

Where earthquakes occur

