

## Earthquakes

Did you know the ground beneath your feet is always moving – just very, very slowly? Sometimes, parts of the Earth's surface suddenly shake. This is called an earthquake.

The Earth is made up of layers. The outer layer is called the crust. It is broken into giant pieces called plates. These plates move slowly all the time. Sometimes two plates push against each other and get stuck. Pressure builds up and then, suddenly, they slip. This makes the ground shake and tremble.

Earthquakes can be small and gentle, like a rumble under your feet. Some are very strong and can knock down buildings and trees.

The place underground where the shaking starts is called the focus. The point on the surface directly above it is called the epicentre.

Scientists who study earthquakes are called seismologists. They use special machines to measure how strong an earthquake is.

## Questions

1. What is it called when the ground suddenly shakes?
2. What is the outer layer of the Earth called?
3. What are the giant pieces of the Earth's crust called?
4. What do the plates do all the time?
5. What sometimes happens when two plates push against each other?
6. What builds up before an earthquake happens?
7. What is the underground place where shaking starts called?
8. What is the point on the surface above the focus called?
9. What are scientists who study earthquakes called?
10. Why do you think it might be helpful to measure how strong an earthquake is?



Text A Quiz



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