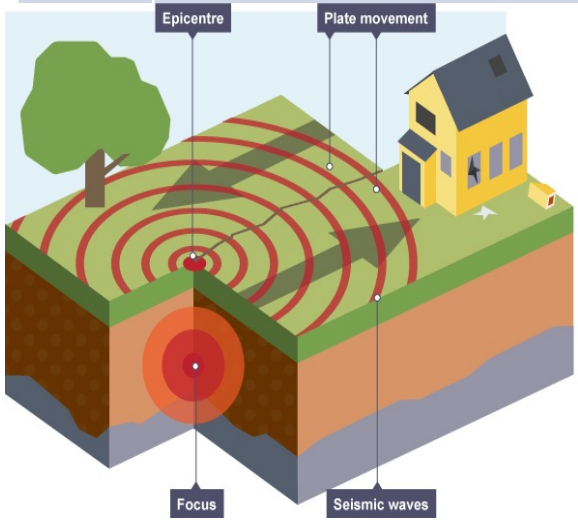
1. What is an earthquake?

An earthquake is where the ground shakes caused by movement of tectonic plates. Tectonic plates either move together, apart or slip along side each other. The movement of these plates creates tension , this stored energy is released in giant shockwaves called seismic waves.

2. Measuring earthquakes

Richter scale:	Intensity level:
1-2.9	Small, barely noticeable vibrations.
3-3.9	Heavy vibrations cause objects to rock.
4-4.9	Sleeping people awakened, windows could break.
5-5.9	Minor damage to strong buildings, walls crack and chimneys fall in weak buildings.
6-6.9	Buildings heavily damaged, many collapse.
7+	Total destruction, electricity, water and telephones cut off.



3. Fault Lines of Earth

4. Do all earthquakes cause destruction?

Earthquakes sometimes cause total destruction, however this is not always the case. The severity of earthquakes can vary, sometimes the vibrations are felt heavily and other times they are barely noticeable.

5. Earthquake hazards

Surface upheaval	Where the ground to tears because of the seismic waves.
Landslides	Where rock and debris fall from mountains and hilltops.
Mudslides	A type of landslide where soil is waterlogged.
Avalanches	When large amounts of snow and ice fall down a mountain side.
Liquefaction	When seismic waves lead to apparently solid ground to become quicksand.
Tsunamis	Earthquakes in lakes, rivers and oceans can cause large waves called tsunamis.

6. Key Vocabulary

aftershock	A smaller earthquake after the main earthquake.
conservative boundary	A plate boundary where two plates slide next to one another.
constructive boundary	A plate boundary where two plates are moving apart.
destructive boundary	A plate boundary where two plates are moving together.
epicentre	The place on the earth's surface directly above the focus point of an earthquake.
fault	A large crack in the Earth's crust.
focus	The point underground where an earthquake happens and shockwaves radiate out from.
foreshock	A smaller earthquake felt before the main earthquake.
mainshock	The main release of seismic waves during an earthquake.
Richter scale	A scale that grades earthquakes according to how much energy they release.
seismic waves	The shock waves that are sent out by an earthquake causing the ground to shake.
seismology	The study of earthquakes.
subduction	The area where one tectonic plate is being forced under another.