Caroline Haslett Primary School - Geography		
Summer Term	Year 6	Earthquakes

Prior Knowledge

The Earth is made of different layers: crust, inner core, mantle and outer core.

Tectonic plates are moving pieces of the Earth's crust that 'float' on the magma underneath.

Earthquakes can occur at conservative, constructive or destructive plate boundaries.

New Knowledge

When tectonic plates get stuck, pressure builds up. Eventually, the pressure is released in waves of energy, which feels like the ground is shaking.

The strength of the shaking is measured on the Richter scale.

On the Richter scale, each number means ten times the number before it, so an earthquake measuring 4 is ten times worse than one measuring 3.

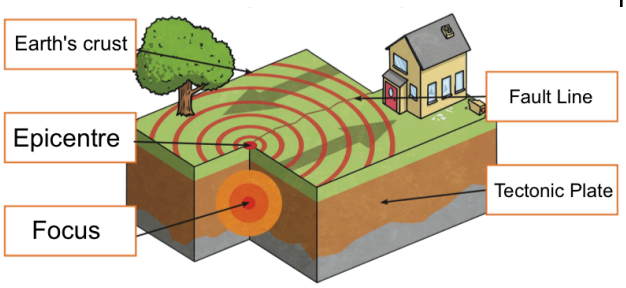
Earthquakes cause lots of damage and some kill people.

Activities

Identify why earthquakes occur and how they are measured.

Research earthquakes around the world and the impact they had on local communities.

Vocabulary



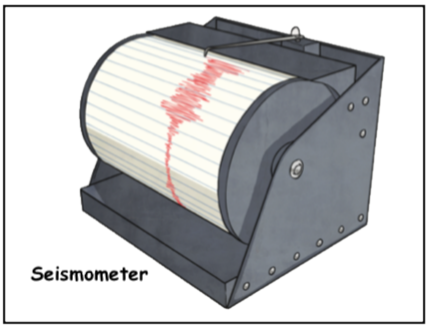
Aftershocks – smaller earthquakes that occur after the first one.

Epicentre – the place on the ground directly above where an earthquake starts.

Focus – the exact place underground where an earthquake happens.

Richter scale - a scale of numbers used to show the power of earthquakes.

Seismometer – a machine that records the strength of an earthquake.



Skills and National Curriculum Objectives

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including …volcanoes.

Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

Location Knowledge	Name and locate the areas of the world where earthquakes have occurred [making links to tectonic plate boundaries]
Place knowledge	Understand the impact earthquakes have on local communities.
Human and physical geography	Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography [earthquakes].
Geographical skills and fieldwork	Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate areas where earthquakes have occurred and describe features studied.