

Natural Disasters

Earthquakes are violent movements of the rocks in the Earth's crust. Earthquakes are usually quite brief but may repeat over a period of time. They are the result of a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust. This creates waves of energy that travel through the Earth. The study of earthquakes is seismology. Seismology studies the frequency, type and size of earthquakes over a period of time.

There are large earthquakes and small earthquakes. Large earthquakes can take down buildings and injury as well as death. Earthquakes are measured using observations from seismometers. The size (magnitude) of an earthquake and the strength (intensity) of shaking is usually reported on the Richter scale. On the scale, 3 or less is scarcely noticeable, and magnitude 7 (or more) causes damage over a wide area.

An earthquake under the ocean can cause a tsunami. This can cause just as much death and destruction as the earthquake itself. Landslides can happen, too. This is an important part of the Earth's rock cycle. Tsunamis are moving waves in the ocean caused by powerful earthquakes are a very serious challenge for people's safety and for earthquake engineering. Those waves can flood coastal areas, destroy houses and even swipe away whole towns.

Unfortunately, tsunamis can be predicted but it cannot be prevented. However, there are warning systems that may warn the populations before the big waves reach the land to let them enough time to rush to safety.

Underline the correct meaning of the words as it is used in the passage.

1. '**violent**' means
 - a. find
 - b. powerful
 - c. break
 - d. open

2. '**travel**' means
 - a. slowly
 - b. heavily
 - c. loudly
 - d. transportable

3. '**observation**' means
- a. observing something carefully in order to gain information.
 - b. something that causes happiness
 - c. something that causes profits
 - d. something that causes pain
4. '**Landslide**' means
- a. producers
 - b. makers
 - c. sellers
 - d. avalanche
5. '**Population**' means
- a. give something
 - b. People
 - c. To win something
 - d. To look after of something

Questions 1-7

Answer all the questions in complete sentences.

1. What are earthquakes?

2. How many types of earthquakes are there?

3. What is the study of earthquake called?

4. What scale do we use to measure the magnitude of an earthquake?

5. What is an earthquake under the ocean called?

6. How tsunamis affect people?

7. If there is an earthquake, what will you do to save yourself?

