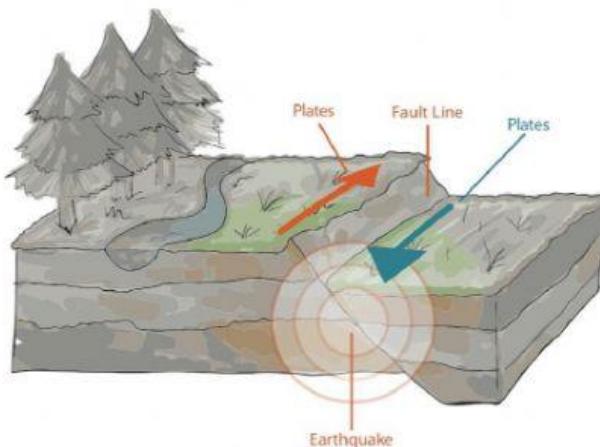


Earthquakes: Text Features

Directions: Read only the text features (i.e., sidebars, diagram, and bold words). Then, answer the questions.

Earthquakes

Have you ever felt an earthquake? During an earthquake, the earth feels like it is shaking. An **earthquake** is a vibration that travels through the earth's crust. The most common cause of earthquakes are the earth's **tectonic plates**. These plates are in constant motion and when they bump into one another it can cause underground vibrations. The place where the plates bump each other is called the **fault line**. Earthquakes are common along the Pacific Ocean.



Historical Earthquakes

1811

Madrid Missouri Quakes

These earthquakes happened along the Mississippi river, lasting for months. These quakes actually caused the river to run backwards.

1906

San Francisco Earthquake

One of the most famous US disasters, the fires started by this earthquake actually did more damage than the quake itself.

1970

Ancash Earthquake

One of the biggest earthquakes ever recorded, the Ancash earthquake caused landslides, destroyed homes and took away many lives. This quake hit 7.8 on the Richter scale.

Safety Tips

- 1 Stay away from windows.
- 2 Stay indoors.
- 3 Take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- 4 Secure shelves and heavy objects against the wall.
- 5 Plan an earthquake preparation kit with your family.
- 6 If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- 7 Stay away from electrical wires.

- 1) In which year did an earthquake cause a river to run backwards?
- 2) What is the most common cause of earthquakes?
- 3) What does the vibration of an earthquake travel through?
- 4) What is the place called where the Earth's plates bump against each other?
- 5) In which ocean are earthquakes most common?
- 6) Where did fires started by the earthquake cause more damage than the earthquake itself?
- 7) What did the Ancash earthquake measure on the Richter scale?