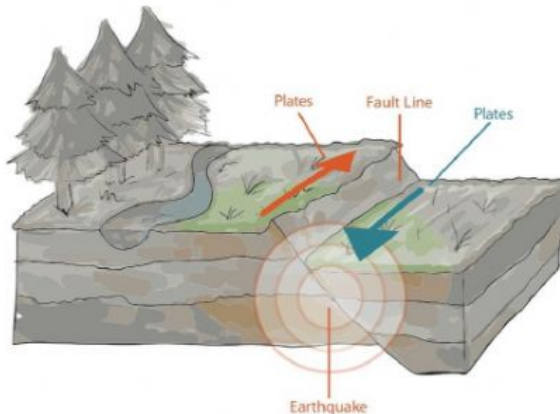


# Earthquakes: Text Features

**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?