

SUMMARIZING

Use a highlighter or pen, and pick out FIVE KEY FACTS from the text.

Use bullet points to put these into 5 summary statements about earthquakes

Shaking the Earth

51 An earthquake is caused by violent movements in the Earth's crust. Most occur when two plates in the crust move against each other. An earthquake starts deep underground at its 'focus'. Shock waves move out in all directions, shaking the rock. The point where the shock waves reach the surface is called the epicentre. This is where the strongest shaking takes place.

▼ The focus of an earthquake is the point where the plates suddenly move.

Fault line where two plates move against each other
The epicentre is the point on the surface directly above the focus



I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

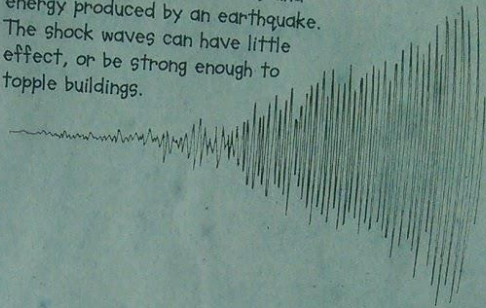
Since ancient times, people have noticed animals behaving strangely just before earthquakes. Dogs and cats can get agitated, and herds of cattle have been known to run away.



► A severely damaged road after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Earthquakes can also make buildings collapse, and fire is a hazard, as gas mains can break and catch alight.

52 The power of an earthquake can vary. Half a million earthquakes happen every year but hardly any of these can be felt. About 25 earthquakes each year are powerful enough to cause disasters. Earthquake strength is measured by the Richter Scale. The higher the number on the scale, the more destructive the earthquake.

▼ The Richter Scale measures the strength of the shock waves and energy produced by an earthquake. The shock waves can have little effect, or be strong enough to topple buildings.



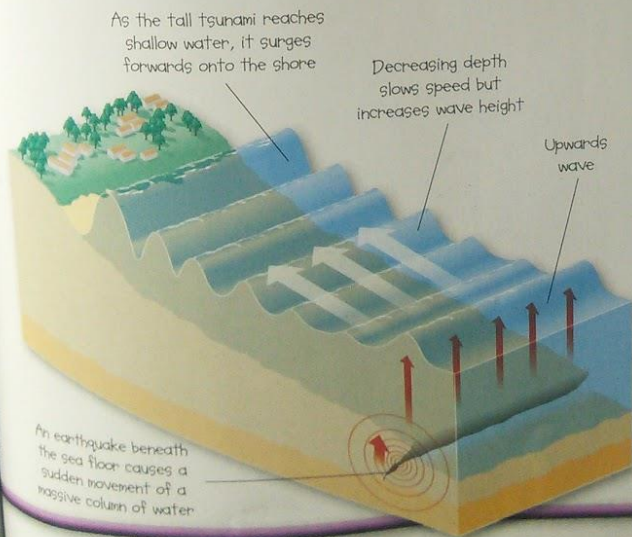
Windows break at level 5



Bridges and buildings collapse at level 7



Widespread destruction occurs at level 8



53 Earthquakes under the sea are called seaquakes.

These can cause enormous, devastating waves called tsunamis. As the tsunami rushes across the ocean, it stays quite low. As it reaches the coast, it slows and the water piles up to form a wall. The wave rushes onto the land, destroying everything in its path.

◀ A tsunami can be up to 30 metres high. The weight and power in the wave flattens towns and villages in its path.