

💁 Knowledge Organiser – Earthquakes and Tsunamis (Year 6)



Key Vocabulary

- AmplitudeThe amplitude is the size of the wiggles on an
earthquake recording.
- AftershockAftershocks are smaller earthquakes which
occur after a large earthquake.
- Earthquake An earthquake is any sudden shaking of the ground caused by the passage of seismic waves through Earth's rocks. Seismic waves are produced when some form of energy stored in the Earth's crust is suddenly released, usually when masses of rock straining against one another suddenly fracture or 'slip'.
- IntensityIntensity is a measure of the size of an
earthquake based on observation of the effects
of the shock on the earth's surface.

Location A location is the place where something happens or is situated.

Massive Quakes

Indian Ocean: 26th December 2004 – 9.1-9.3 on the Richter scale

Haiti: 12th January 2010 – 7.0 on the Richter scale Japan: 11th March 2011 – 8.9 on the Richter scale Nepal: 25th April 2015 – 7.8 on the Richter scale Amazingly, every 30 seconds there is an earthquake somewhere on Earth. However, most are minor.

The Earth's surface is made up of a number of plates that are almost always moving. Most earthquakes happen where these plates meet.

Some of the plates slide past each other, causing *friction* to build up.

While some move towards each other, causing a build-up of *pressure*.

Although most are minor, a major earthquake can cause a lot of destruction.

When these

pressure are

released they produce a violent iolt that shakes

the land: an

earthquake.

forces, friction or

The Earth's tectonic plates.

earthquake

Key Vocabulary

Magnitude The magnitude is a measure of the size of an earthquake based on the quantity of energy released: specified on the Richter scale.

Recurrence If there is a **recurrence** of something, it happens again.

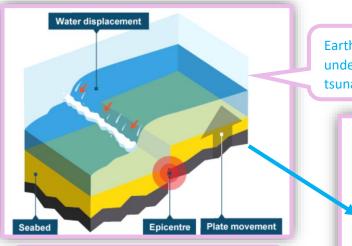
TectonicThe Earth's crust and upper part of the mantlePlatesare broken into large pieces called tectonicplates.

Tremors A tremor is a small earthquake.

Tsunami A **tsunami** is a very large wave, often caused by an earthquake, that flows onto the land and destroys things.

Seismograph A **seismograph** is an instrument for recording and measuring the strength of earthquakes.





The water is displaced (moved from its usual position), creating a wave which spreads out. The wave moves through the ocean at speed.

Boxing Day Tsunami

- A huge volume of water was shifted by the sudden rise of part of the sea bed along a 1,600km fault line. The waves raced across the Indian Ocean towards land.
- When they hit the coast, the tsunami waves (which were up to 30m high) caused widespread flooding of towns and villages.
- Indonesia was the worst affected, followed by Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

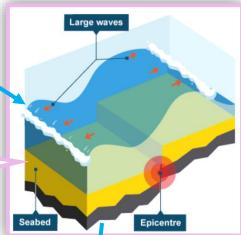
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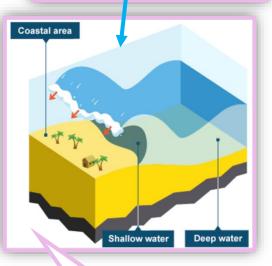
BAY OF BENGAL

> ANDAMAN ISLANDS (INDIA)

> > Altogether, more than 200,000 people were killed in 14 countries.

Earthquakes which occur under the water form a tsunami.





The tsunami slows as it reaches the shore but the waves increase in height.