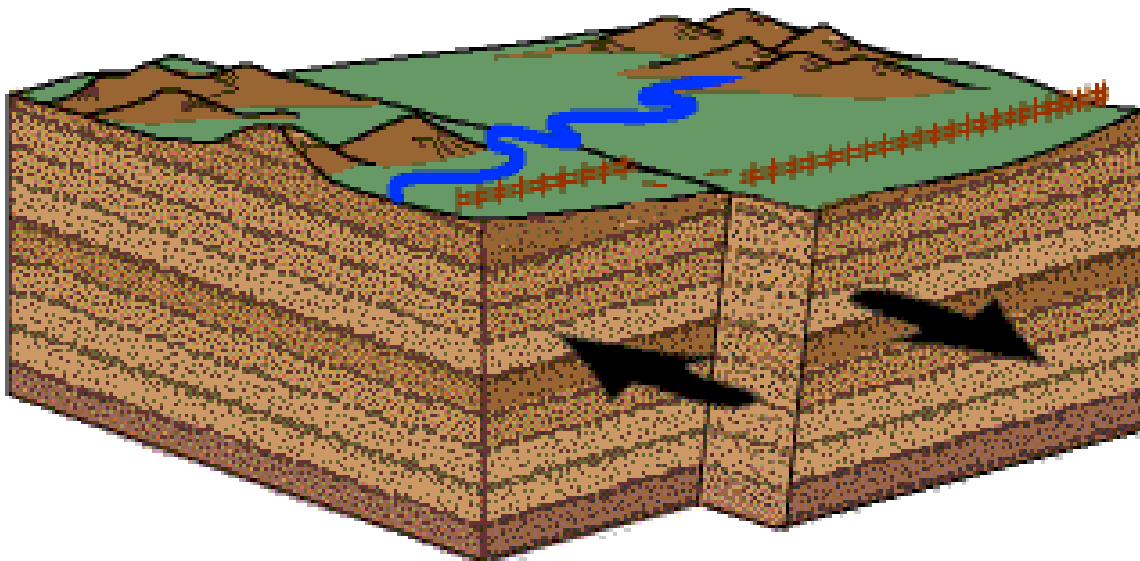


EARTHQUAKES

Have you ever wondered how the ground shakes during an Earthquake? The most common cause for Earthquakes are the Earth's tectonic plates. These plates are always in motion, and sometimes they bump into each other, causing vibrations! There are three ways these plates can move to cause an Earthquake.

1. They can be moving away from each other; called a "normal" fault.
2. They can run into each other; called a "reverse" fault.
3. They can slide against each other; called a "slip" fault.

Slip faults cause the most dramatic Earthquakes; they can actually get stuck together as they move... the pressure builds and suddenly releases to create a big movement. Try it with rocks! Hold two rocks together side by side. Build the pressure by pushing them against each other as if they're trying to go in different directions. Suddenly let them move. Did you feel the vibrations?



There are large Earthquakes, and small Earthquakes. Large Earthquakes can make buildings fall down! A small Earthquake might not even be noticeable at all!

Some places, like Japan and California, have many Earthquakes. Buildings are built to withstand Earthquakes. They have fewer skyscrapers because shorter buildings are better able to remain standing after an Earthquake.



What to do!

If you don't live somewhere that lies on a fault line, you likely won't experience an Earthquake. But if you do, there are ways you can stay safe.

- Stay away from windows
- Stay indoors
- Take cover under sturdy furniture
- Stay away from electrical wires

What do you remember?

K-1st grade:

1. What can cause an Earthquake?
2. What is it called when plates move away from each other?
3. What is it called when plates slide past each other?
4. Are skyscrapers best for places with many Earthquakes?
5. What should you do in an Earthquake?

Pre K to K:

1. What is it called when the ground shakes?
2. What are some ways the Earth's plates can move?
3. Is it safe to build skyscrapers in places with many Earthquakes?
4. What should you do in an Earthquake?



K-1st Answers: 1) Earth's plates moving to cause vibrations. 2) Normal fault. 3) Slip fault. 4) No. 5) Any of the answers under "what to do"

Prek to K Answers: 1) Earthquake. 2) away from each other, against each other, toward each other. 3) No 4) Any of the answers under "what to do"