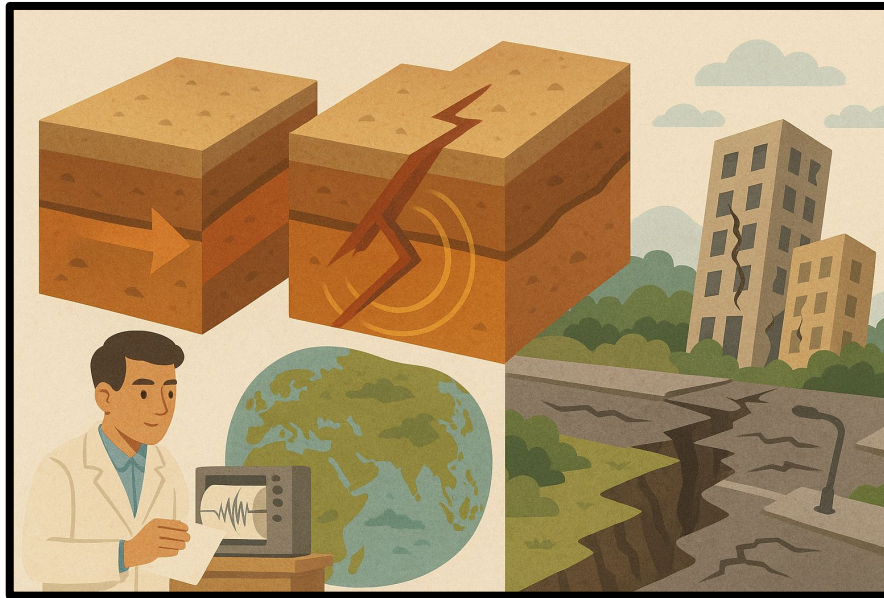


Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



How Earthquakes Happen

The ground beneath our feet might seem still, but it is always moving slowly. Earthquakes happen when pieces of Earth's crust suddenly slide past one another. These pieces are called tectonic plates.

Most of the time, these plates move so slowly that we don't notice. But sometimes they get stuck. When pressure builds up, the plates suddenly shift. That sudden movement causes the ground to shake—this is an earthquake.

Earthquakes can happen anywhere, but they are more common near the edges of tectonic plates. Some earthquakes are small and gentle, while others are strong and can damage buildings or roads.

Scientists who study earthquakes are called seismologists. They use special tools called seismographs to measure how strong an earthquake is and where it started.

By studying earthquakes, scientists hope to keep people safe by learning how to build stronger structures and giving early warnings when possible.



Name: _____

How Earthquakes Happen

1. What causes an earthquake to happen?

- A. The wind blows very hard
- B. Tectonic plates move suddenly
- C. Volcanoes shoot out lava
- D. Rainwater shakes the ground

2. Who studies earthquakes and helps keep people safe?

- A. Astronauts
- B. Builders
- C. Seismologists
- D. Explorers

3. Fill in the blank:

Scientists use a tool called a _____ to measure earthquakes.

4. Why do tectonic plates sometimes cause the ground to shake?

5. How does the information in the text help people prepare for earthquakes?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Informational (Earth Science)

Introducing the Text

“Today’s text will teach us about what causes earthquakes and how scientists study them. As we read, we’ll focus on asking and answering questions like *what*, *why*, and *how* to help us understand the important ideas and details in the text.”

Vocabulary: tectonic plates, pressure, crust, seismologist, seismograph

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about earthquakes?
 2. Have you ever felt the ground shake before?
 3. What do you think scientists do when they study natural disasters?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are tectonic plates, and how do they move?
 2. Why does pressure cause the ground to shake?
 3. What tools do seismologists use?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do scientists help people stay safe during earthquakes?
 2. What part of the text helped you understand how earthquakes work best?
 3. Why is asking questions important when learning new information?
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Activity Idea

Students create a simple “Earthquake Info Poster.” They draw tectonic plates and label the parts of an earthquake (fault, crust, pressure). Then, they write a “Did You Know?” question based on the text, along with the answer, to help teach others. Hang the posters in the classroom for a science wall display.

