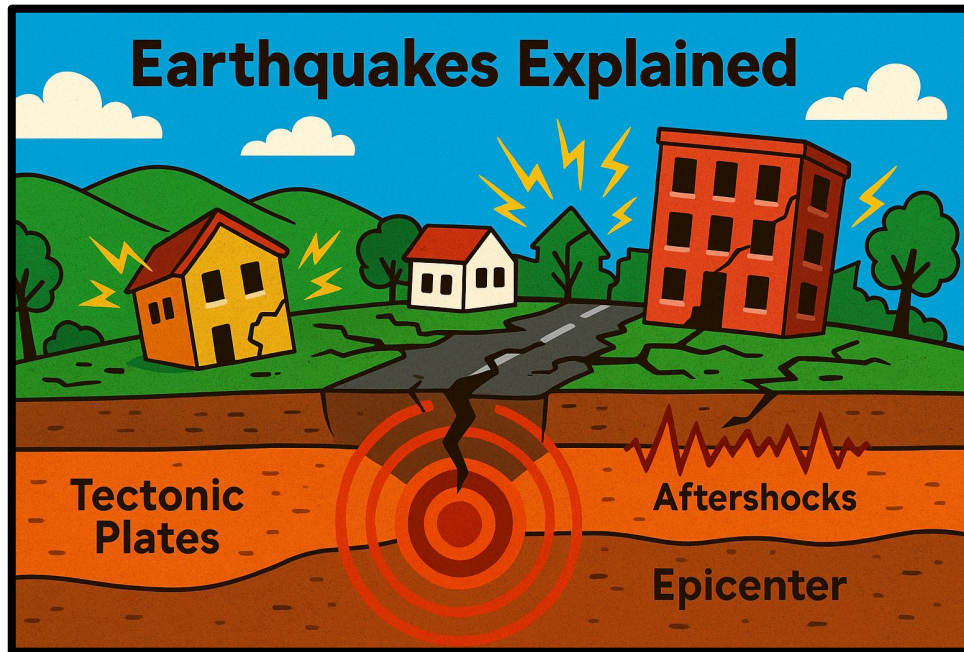


# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Author's Purpose

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Earthquakes Explained

Earthquakes are sudden shakes in the ground. They happen when parts of the Earth's surface move.

### **Tectonic Plates:**

The Earth's surface is made up of big pieces called tectonic plates. These plates move very slowly. When they bump or slide past each other, the ground can shake. That shaking is an earthquake.

### **Epicenter:**

The epicenter is the spot on Earth where the earthquake starts. It is usually the place that feels the shaking the most.

### **Aftershocks:**

After a big earthquake, smaller shakes can still happen. These are called aftershocks. They can last for days or even weeks.

Earthquakes can change the land. They might crack roads or knock down buildings. Scientists use tools to measure them and help keep people safe.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Earthquakes Explained

1. What causes an earthquake?

- A. Tectonic plates moving
- B. Rainstorms
- C. Volcanoes erupting
- D. Strong winds

2. What is an aftershock?

- A. A tool used to measure quakes
- B. A smaller shake after an earthquake
- C. A sound made during an earthquake
- D. A crack in the ground

3. Fill in the blank:

The earth's surface is made up of big pieces called \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Why do scientists study earthquakes?

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5. What did the author want to explain in this text?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

**Lexile Level:** 425L-575L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, End of the Year

**Genre:** Informational

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll learn about earthquakes—what causes them and how they affect the Earth. As we read, think about the author's main purpose. Is the author trying to answer a question, explain how something works, or describe a topic?"*

**Vocabulary:** earthquake, tectonic, plates, epicenter, aftershock

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever heard of an earthquake?
  2. What do you think happens during one?
  3. Why might it be helpful to know about earthquakes?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are tectonic plates, and how do they move?
  2. What happens at the epicenter?
  3. What are aftershocks, and how long can they last?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the author's main purpose in this text?
  2. How do the text features help explain earthquakes?
  3. What is one new fact you learned today?
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## Activity Idea

Give students a paper plate and have them draw tectonic plates on it. Cut the plate into pieces, then slowly slide the pieces past one another to model an earthquake. Students can label the epicenter and simulate aftershocks with slight movement.

