



Earth is shaking

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Earthquakes can provide a useful context for teaching or reviewing many basic physics concepts, such as sliding and static friction, forms of energy and conversion from one form to another, and the elastic properties of materials. Conducting activities provides an opportunity for students to work cooperatively together, develop and test a hypothesis, make measurements, and write a short report on the results with graphs.

Talking to students about the seismic causes of earthquakes will help dispel some fears and help them understand how to stay safe during one. Teach students how to prepare and protect themselves during earthquakes by learning:

What to do before an earthquake

What to do during an earthquake and

What to do after an earthquake.

Grade level: 7-9

Subject area: Earth and Space Science

Standard:

Understands basic Earth processes

Benchmarks:

Knows that the Earth's crust is divided into plates that move at extremely slow rates in response to movements in the mantle.

Objectives

1. Understand the different types of earthquake waves and the impact they can have.
2. Understand why an earthquake can affect different parts of a city in different ways.
3. Understand the importance of taking substrate and construction design into consideration when preparing a city for an earthquake.

Vocabulary: epicenter, plate tectonics, Richter scale, seismic, substrate, waves