Mapping the Earth: Understanding Earthquakes with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the physical processes of an earthquake and identify key geological features.

Use the diagram space below to illustrate how an earthquake occurs beneath the Earth's surface. Use your knowledge of tectonic plates to complete the drawing, then label your diagram using the words provided.

Draw: Draw a cross-section of the Earth's crust showing two large, jagged tectonic plates meeting at a fault line. Below the surface, mark a point as the 'focus' and draw circular rings expanding outwards from it to represent 'seismic waves'. On the surface directly above the focus, draw a small symbol to represent the 'epicentre'. Use a clear, labelled diagram style suitable for a geography workbook.

Label words: Crust · Epicentre · Focus · Seismic Waves · Tectonic Plates · Fault Line

Steps:

1. Explain the difference between the 'focus' and the 'epicentre' of an earthquake.
2. What causes the ground to shake during an earthquake?
3. Draw an arrow on your diagram to show the direction that seismic waves travel.

4. If tectonic plates move, what happens to the land at the surface? Describe one physical change.
5. Label your diagram using all six words from the word bank.