

Grade 3 Geography Assessment: Earthquakes

Learning objective: To identify how earthquakes happen and describe their effects on the Earth.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you. Write your answers clearly on the lines provided.

The Earth is made of different layers. The top layer is called the crust. The crust is broken into giant pieces called tectonic plates. These plates move slowly. Sometimes, the plates get stuck. When they suddenly slip, the ground starts shaking. This is called an earthquake. The spot on the surface right above where the slip happens is the epicentre.

Word bank: Tectonic plates · Crust · Shaking · Epicentre · Damage

1. What is the name of the top layer of the Earth? (1 mark)

2. The Earth's crust is made of giant pieces. What are these pieces called? (2 marks)

3. What happens to the ground during an earthquake? (Complete the sentence: During an earthquake, the ground starts...) (2 marks)

4. Finn the dolphin is exploring. He wants to know what we call the spot on the surface directly above where the earthquake starts. Write the name below. (2 marks)

5. List two things that might happen to buildings or roads after a strong earthquake. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are a scientist like Nova. Describe why the ground moves. Use the words 'plates' and 'slip' in your answer. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Write a short paragraph about how people can stay safe if an earthquake happens. Think about where to hide and what to do. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Earth's crust showing the giant puzzle pieces (tectonic plates) fitting together.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Why do you think some places have more earthquakes than others? Think about where the plates meet.