Year 6 Geography: Earthquakes with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the causes, measurement, and effects of earthquakes.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of how our planet moves. Read the question on the front, then check the answer on the back.

What are tectonic plates?

Large slabs of rock that make up the Earth's outer shell, which slowly move over the mantle.

What is the epicentre of an earthquake?

The point on the Earth's surface directly above where the earthquake starts underground.

Which instrument is used to detect and measure earthquake vibrations?

A seismograph.

What is the name of the scale used to measure the magnitude (strength) of an earthquake?

The Richter scale.

What is a fault line?

A break or crack in the Earth's crust where tectonic plates meet and slide past each other.

True or False: Earthquakes happen because the Earth's core is liquid.

False. They are caused by the movement of tectonic plates in the crust and upper mantle.

What term describes the energy released during an earthquake?

Magnitude.

What is the thin, solid outermost layer of the Earth called?

The crust.

What can happen to the ocean floor during a strong underwater earthquake?

It can cause a tsunami, which is a series of large, powerful waves.

Why do tectonic plates move?

Because of intense heat and convection currents deep inside the Earth's mantle.

Name one way buildings can be made safer in earthquake-prone areas.

By using earthquake-resistant materials or base isolation systems that allow the building to sway rather than crack.

Where do most earthquakes occur?

Along the boundaries of tectonic plates.