Earthquakes: Shifting Foundations

Learning objective: To write a non-chronological report explaining the causes and effects of earthquakes using geographical terminology.

Use this scaffold to structure your report. Remember to use formal, objective language and include specific geographical vocabulary to describe the Earth's structure.

Beneath the surface of the Earth, the ground we stand upon is constantly moving, driven by massive geological forces that shape our planet.

Word bank: tectonic plates · seismic waves · epicentre · magnitude · consequently · furthermore · subsequently · devastation · geological · lithosphere

1. Introduction: What are earthquakes and how do they occur? Start by defining the movement of tectonic plates... (2 marks)

2. The Science of Shaking: Describe what happens at plate boundaries. Use the terms 'friction', 'pressure', and 'seismic waves' to explain the release of energy... (3 marks)

3. Measuring Impact: Explain how scientists measure the strength of an earthquake. Mention the Richter scale or Moment Magnitude scale... (2 marks)

4. Consequences for Humans: Discuss the short-term and long-term effects on communities and infrastructure... (3 marks)

5. Safety and Preparation: Conclude by outlining how buildings can be designed to withstand tremors and what safety measures should be taken... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a significant historical earthquake and add a 'Case Study' box to your report, detailing the location, date, and the specific impact it had on the local population.