Earthquakes: The Shaking Earth

Learning objective: To describe how earthquakes occur and explain the impact they have on the environment.

Use this writing frame to help you explain what an earthquake is. Think about what happens under the Earth's crust and how it changes the land around us. Remember to use your geography vocabulary.

Deep beneath our feet, the Earth's outer layer is made of giant pieces of rock called tectonic plates that are constantly, slowly moving.

Word bank: tectonic plates · crust · vibrations · tremors · epicentre · suddenly · consequently · furthermore · as a result

1. What happens when two tectonic plates get stuck and then suddenly slip past each other? Start your sentence with: When the plates move... (2 marks)

2. How would you describe the feeling or sound of an earthquake to someone who has never experienced one? Use words like: The ground began to... (2 marks)

3. What are two ways that an earthquake can change the physical landscape or buildings? Use a connective like: Furthermore, the earthquake caused... (2 marks)

4. Why is it important for people living in areas where earthquakes happen to be prepared? Start with: It is important to be prepared because... (2 marks)

5. Imagine Finn the dolphin is swimming near the coast during an earthquake. How might the water change? Start with: If an earthquake happens near the sea... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a famous earthquake from history. Write one paragraph explaining where it happened and what the effect was on the local town.