

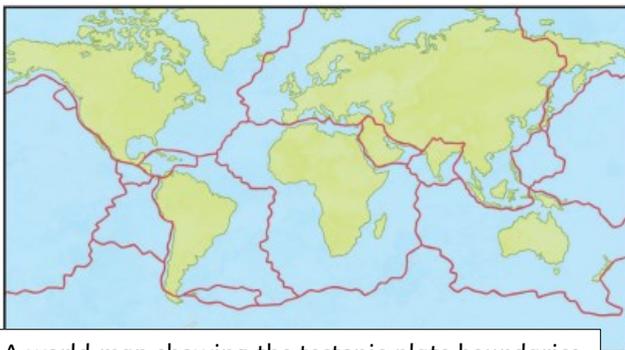
Why do some earthquakes cause more damage than others?

YEAR 4 - SPRING 1 - NATURAL DISASTERS

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are caused when the earth's tectonic plates move suddenly.

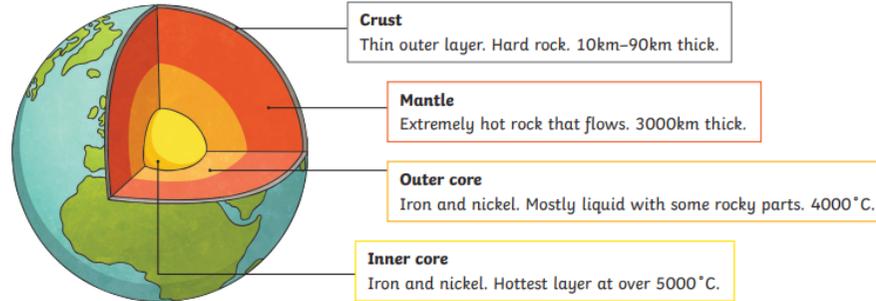
Most earthquakes occur near the tectonic plate boundaries though are most common around the Pacific Ocean.



A world map showing the tectonic plate boundaries.

Scientists measure the magnitude (level) of an earthquake using the Richter Scale.

Earthquakes can be disastrous. In the worst cases, they can destroy cities, kill thousands of people and even cause tsunamis.



Key Vocabulary

earthquake	An earthquake happens when the earth's crust suddenly moves.
tsunami	A tsunami is a giant wave or series of waves caused by a huge earthquake or volcanic
continent	A large, solid area of land. There are 7 continents on Earth.
epicentre	The point on the Earth's surface directly above the point where the earthquake originates.
Richter Scale	A scale to measure the amount of energy an earthquake releases. It goes from 0-9.
tectonic plate	The earth's crust is made up of large plates on the earth's surface that fit together neatly, covering the Earth.

TSUNAMIS

A tsunami is a giant wave that can be caused by an earthquake, volcanic eruption under the ocean or when a meteor/asteroid crashes in the ocean.

Usually, tsunamis start suddenly and usually happen in the Pacific Ocean.

Tsunamis happen when a large amount of water is displaced very quickly as it causes a series of waves.

The waves travel incredibly quickly across an ocean. As the waves travel from the deeper water to the shallower water near land, they get bigger and bigger.

The waves then crash onto the land causing devastation to homes, businesses and lives.

