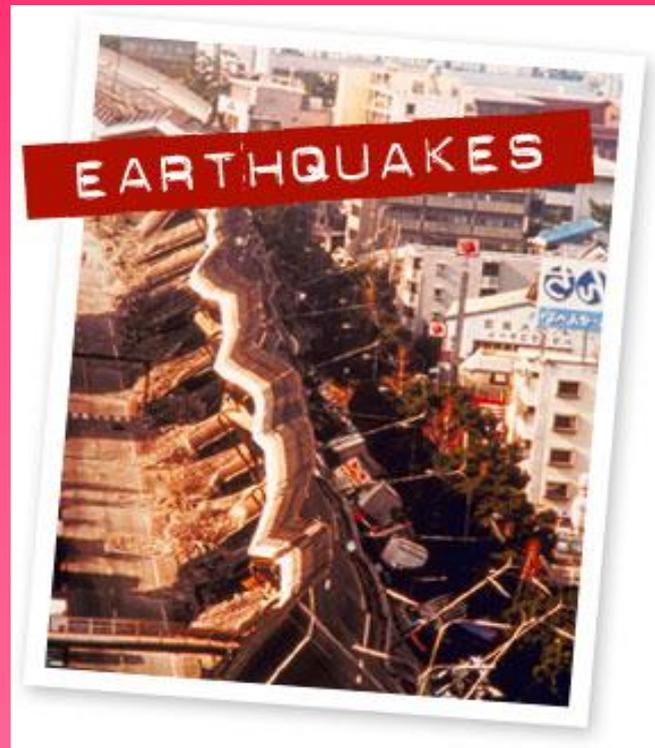


Earthquake:)



Student Sample

How do earthquakes happen?

- Rock underground breaks along the faults
- A release of energy causes seismic waves to shake the ground
- Plates slide against each other causing the earth to shake or rumble
- Explosions underground cause plates to move



What are common myths/legends about earthquakes?

- **“It’s hot and dry-earthquake weather.”**

People believe when it is hot earthquakes will occur. Not true, earthquakes can occur during any weather.

- **“Head for the doorway.”**

People think that they are safe in a doorway during an earthquake. This is only true if you live in an old unreinforced adobe house. New homes you are safer under tables.

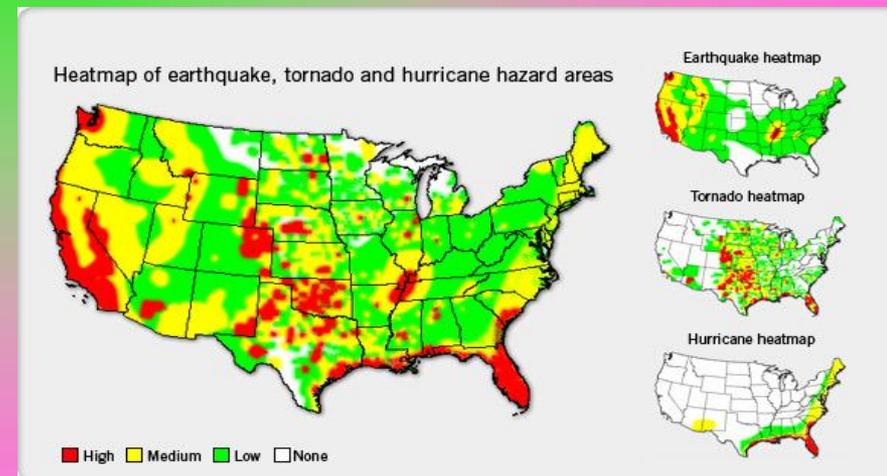
- **“And the earth opened...”**

False, faults come together during earthquakes, they do not separate so therefore the earth doesn’t open.



Where do most earthquakes in the U.S. occur?

- California is the first
- The second is Alaska
- Third is Puerto Rico
- Fourth is the western part of Nevada
- Last is Washington



The Plates

- The plates on either side of the San Andreas Fault Zone slide past each other at a rate of about 2 to 4 inches per year. This is about the same rate at which fingernails grow.
- Assuming this rate of movement continues, Los Angeles and San Francisco could be right next to each other in approximately 15 million years.

Earthquakes

- There are about 8,000 earthquakes a day. That's one every 11 seconds!
- Only 1 in 5 earthquakes can be felt by people, and only 1 in 5,000 causes any damage.

History

- Between 1975 and 1995, there was a significant earthquake in every state except Florida, Iowa, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- On average, Alaska has a magnitude 8 or greater earthquake every 14 years. It has had 12 7.0 quakes in the past 30 years alone.

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- http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/information/publications/teacher_features/eq_legends.htm
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