

Preparing for Earthquakes

Grades 4-6

Reproducible Master

Hi! I'm Greta. Earthquakes happen when gigantic slabs of rock under the Earth's surface rub together and bump each other. That's what causes the ground to shake. Want to learn more? Download **Monster Guard**. It's a free app from the American Red Cross that teaches kids how to be prepared for emergencies. Choose "Earthquake" on the main menu to join me on a training mission. You'll learn how to help make a home earthquake-ready.

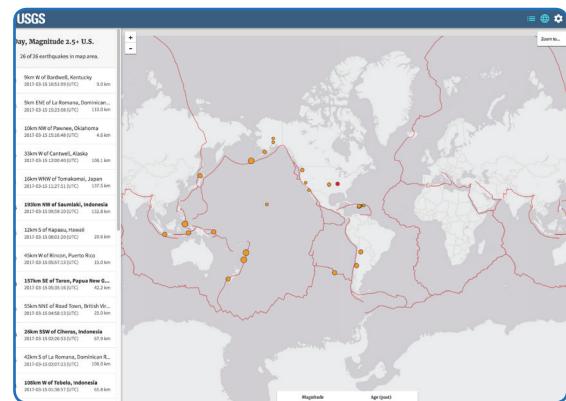
Note: You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Earthquake training mission.

My Earthquake Safety Score: _____



Part 1

Scientists call the gigantic slabs of rock that cause most earthquakes *tectonic plates*. The tectonic plates fit together like the pieces of a puzzle to form the outer layer of the Earth. But unlike the pieces of a puzzle, tectonic plates move and shift position, and that causes the edges of the plates to be pushed together or pulled apart. This usually happens so slowly that we can't feel it, but when the edges get caught on each other, pressure builds up at that spot until, one day, the two edges break free. When that happens, we feel an earthquake.



Earthquakes happen every day. Visit <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map> for a map that shows where earthquakes have happened today. The red lines on the map mark the edges of the tectonic plates. Use the "Zoom to" button to look at the whole world, then use the map to answer these questions about the earthquakes that happened today.

- How many of today's earthquakes happened at the borders between tectonic plates? _____
- How many of today's earthquakes happened far away from the borders between tectonic plates?
_____ Where did they happen? _____
- How many of today's earthquakes happened in the United States? _____
- Scientists use magnitude to measure the size of earthquakes. A magnitude 1 earthquake is very weak. The strongest earthquake every recorded was magnitude 9.5. What magnitude was the strongest earthquake that happened today? Magnitude _____

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Part 2

Do you remember your earthquake safety training? Show what you learned by filling in the table below with things in your home that need to be secured, things that should be moved, and safety spots in your home that would provide good cover in the event of an earthquake.



Things to secure	Things to move	Things that provide cover

Replay the
Monster Guard
Earthquake training
mission. See if you
can score higher!

Part 3

Use what you have learned to write about where most earthquakes happen in the United States, and why. Visit <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map> again for help if needed. Then, explain why earthquakes can happen in almost any state, and write about how your family can prepare for an earthquake in your home.

