

Lesson 5: Resource Sheet 1

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are the violent shaking of the ground. They occur suddenly and can cause a lot of damage (see Figures 1 and 2). One way to thinking about earthquakes is to think of them as the way the Earth releases built up stress.

This stress occurs when extreme pressure builds up within the Earth's crust and needs to be released. The pressure or stress mostly occurs where the tectonic plates meet.

As we learned in Lesson 1, the Earth's crust has several tectonic plates that fit together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. These plates float and move, sometimes causing pressures to build up within the Earth's surface. When this pressure is released, earthquakes occur.

Figure 1: Earthquakes

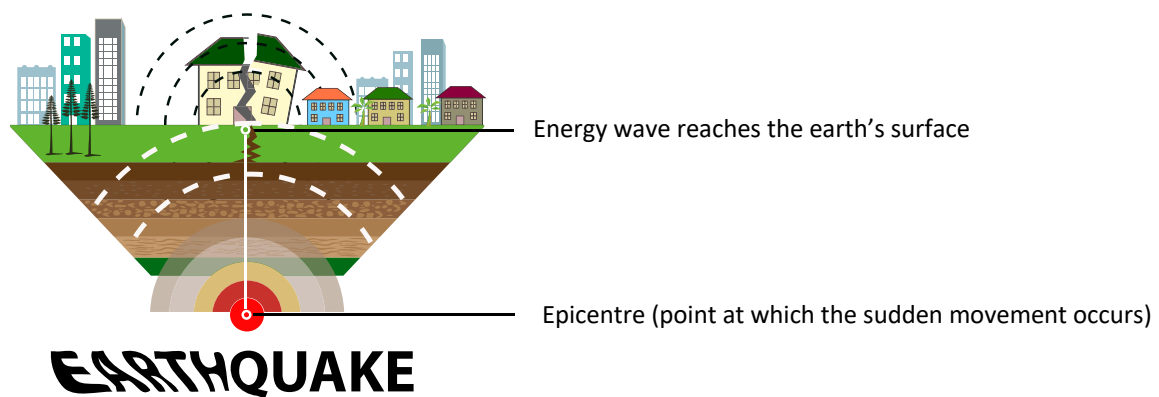


Figure 2: Earthquake damage in Amatrice, Italy, 2016



Tsunami

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. The wave can cause great damage and loss of life.

Figure 3: Tsunami caused by an underwater earthquake

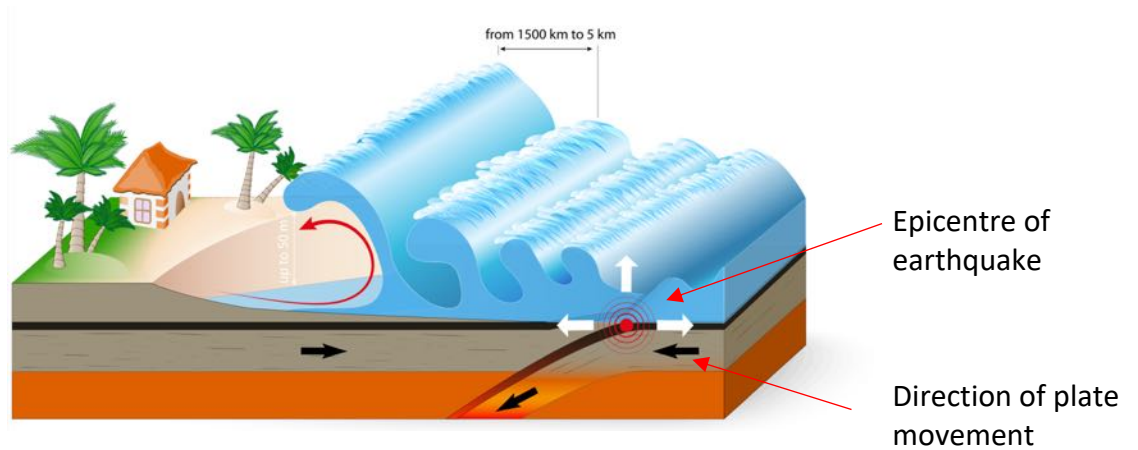


Figure 4: Tsunami damage, Banda Aceh, Indonesia, 2004



Figure 5: Tsunami damage, Fukushima, Japan, 2011

