

Earth Machine



The structure of the Earth

The Crust	Varies in thickness (5-10km) beneath the ocean. Made up of several large plates.
The Mantle	Widest layer (2900km thick). The heat and pressure means the rock is in a liquid state that is in a state of convection.
The Inner and outer Core	Hottest section (5000 degrees). Mostly made of iron and nickel and is 4x denser than the crust. Inner section is solid whereas outer layer is liquid.

Plate Tectonics

Plate tectonics is the theory that Earth's outer shell is divided into several plates that glide over the mantle, the rocky inner layer above the core. The plates act like a hard and rigid shell compared to Earth's mantle.



Natural Resource

Natural Resources: Something, such as a forest, a mineral deposit, or fresh water, that is found in nature and is necessary or useful to humans.

The Rock Cycle

The Earth's rocks are continually changing because of processes such as weathering, erosion and large earth movements. The rocks are gradually recycled over millions of years. This is called the rock cycle. For example, sedimentary rocks can be changed into metamorphic rocks.

Igneous, igneous rock: Formed from magma, either erupted from a volcano or cooled below ground in an intrusion.

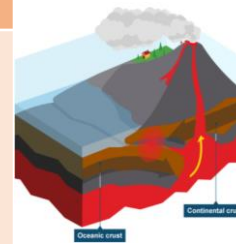
Metamorphic rock: a rock which has re-crystallised due to heat and/or pressure.

Sedimentary rock: any rock made up of sediment grains.

Types of Plate Margins

Destructive Plate Margin

When the denser plate subducts beneath the other, friction causes it to **melt and become molten magma**. The magma forces its way up to the surface to form a volcano. This margin is also responsible for **devastating earthquakes**.



Constructive Plate Margin

Here two plates are **moving apart** causing new magma to reach the surface through the gap. Volcanoes formed along this crack cause a submarine mountain range such as those in the **Mid Atlantic Ridge**.



Conservative Plate Margin

A conservative plate boundary occurs where plates **slide past each other** in opposite directions, or in the same direction but at different speeds. This is responsible for earthquakes such as the ones happening along the San Andreas Fault, USA.



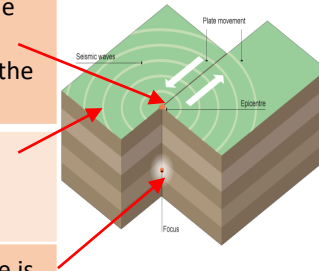
Causes of Earthquakes

Earthquakes are caused when two plates become **locked** causing **friction** to build up. From this **stress**, the **pressure** will eventually be released, triggering the plates to move into a new position. This movement causes energy in the form of **seismic waves**, to travel from the **focus** towards the **epicentre**. As a result, the crust vibrates triggering an earthquake.

The point directly above the focus, where the seismic waves reach first, is called the **EPICENTRE**.

SEISMIC WAVES (energy waves) travel out from the focus.

The point at which pressure is released is called the **FOCUS**.



Earthquake Management



PREDICTING

Methods include:

- Satellite surveying (tracks changes in the earth's surface)
- Laser reflector (surveys movement across fault lines)
- Radon gas sensor (radon gas is released when plates move so this finds that)
- Seismometer
- Water table level (water levels fluctuate before an earthquake).
- Scientists also use seismic records to predict when the next event will occur.

PROTECTION

You can't stop earthquakes, so earthquake-prone regions follow these three methods to reduce potential damage:

- Building earthquake-resistant buildings
- Raising public awareness
- Improving earthquake prediction