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What is Earthquakes

Earthquakes: Nature's Shaking Surprise!

DEFINITION

An earthquake is a sudden shaking of the ground caused by the movement of Earth's tectonic plates. They can vary in strength and can cause damage to buildings and landscapes.

KEY CONCEPTS

Tectonic Plates

The Earth's surface is made up of large pieces called tectonic plates that move.

Seismic Waves

When an earthquake occurs, it produces waves that travel through the Earth, causing shaking.

Epicenter

The epicenter is the point on the Earth's surface directly above where the earthquake starts.

Magnitude

Magnitude measures the strength of an earthquake, often using the Richter scale.

Aftershocks

Aftershocks are smaller earthquakes that occur after the main earthquake event.

EXAMPLES

→ The 2011 Japan earthquake caused a massive tsunami.

→ California experiences frequent earthquakes due to its location on the San Andreas Fault.

→ Small tremors can be felt during minor earthquakes, often unnoticed.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'Tectonic Plates' as 'Tectonic Plates Move and Shake'.

★ Think of 'Epicenter' as 'Epicenter is the Center of the Shake'.

★ Use 'Magnitude Measures Strength' to recall how we assess earthquakes.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing the epicenter with the focus of the earthquake.

✗ Underestimating the damage potential of small earthquakes.

✗ Assuming all earthquakes are the same in strength and effects.

QUICK RECAP

Earthquakes are caused by the movement of tectonic plates and can vary in strength. Key concepts include the epicenter, magnitude, and aftershocks. Understanding these can help us prepare and respond to earthquakes effectively.