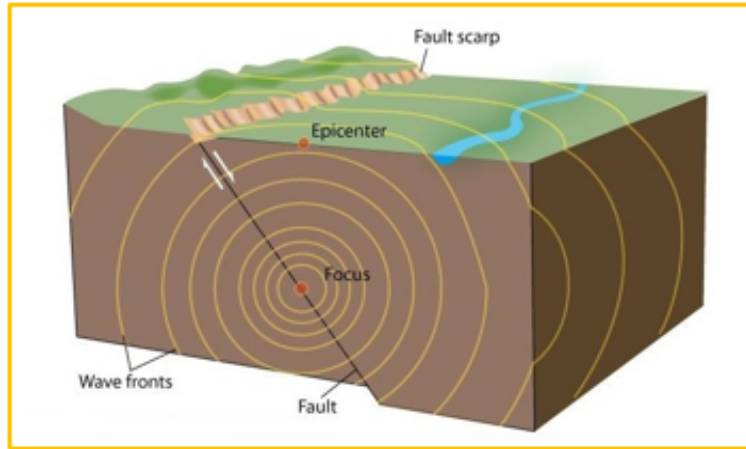




Y3 Geography Earthquakes

What is an earthquake?

It is a vibration in the earth's crust causing the surface of the earth to shake



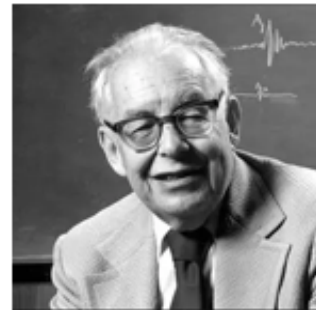
Where do earthquakes occur?

The Earth's surface is made up of a number of plates that are almost always moving. Most earthquakes happen where these plates meet.



Why is Richter a significant person?

Charles Richter devised the Richter scale which is used for measuring the magnitude (power) of an earthquake. The Richter scale is numbered from 1 to 10. Earthquakes measuring upwards of 7 are less frequent but very powerful and can cause a lot of destruction.



Key vocabulary

earthquake	A vibration in the earth's crust causing the surface of the earth to shake
catastrophic	causing sudden and very great harm or destruction
tremor	shaking
Plate boundary	Area where two tectonic plates meet
tsunami	Powerful ocean waves caused by an earthquake
epicentre	The part of the earth's surface directly above the starting point of an earthquake
Focus point	The point within the earth where rock snaps in an earthquake
seismologist	A person who studies earthquakes
magnitude	The size of something
aftershocks	After an earthquake, another tremor called an aftershock can happen.

How do people keep safe in an earthquake zone such as Japan?

- They have Earthquake emergency packs (first aid, torch, blankets)
- People store two weeks' worth of food and water at home
- There is a safe space for sheltering in their homes
- Buildings are reinforced (thick) and have flexible frames
- There are earthquake sensors on trains and buildings
- There are national disaster alerts on phones
- People practise for earthquake events by having earthquake drills.