

**Red** answers

# Exciting facts about earthquakes in the USA!

What are earthquakes and why do they happen?

Earthquakes are **natural disasters** that happen when the **tectonic** plates under the earth move and bump into each other. When the plates crash into each other, slide against each other or slide over or under each other, the ground above the plates shakes, causing **earthquakes**.

What impact do earthquakes have?

Earthquakes that are measured above a 3 on the **Richter** Scale can be felt. Earthquakes stronger than this may have an impact on buildings or on human life. **Tsunamis** are huge waves that travel quickly and are caused by

earthquakes which happen **under** the sea.

Where do earthquakes happen in the USA and why?

Most of the earthquakes that happen in the USA are in the states of **California, Oregon and Washington**. This is because these states sit on top of a **fault line**, where two tectonic plates meet and bump into each other, causing earthquakes. Another area of high earthquake activity is around **Yellowstone National Park**, which is on top of a **supervolcano**. Lastly, there is a small area in the **central** part of the USA that is vulnerable to strong earthquakes, because of how **old** the rocks are there.

Yellow potential answers:

# Exciting facts about earthquakes in the USA!

What are earthquakes and why do they happen?

*What is an earthquake?*

Earthquakes are natural disasters that happen when the tectonic plates under the earth move and bump into each other.

*What causes them to happen?*

When the plates crash into each other, slide against each other or slide over or under each other, the ground above the plates shakes, causing earthquakes.

What impact do earthquakes have?

*How do scientists measure the strength of earthquakes?*

Scientists use the Richter Scale to measure the strength of earthquakes.

*What damage can earthquakes cause to towns and cities?*

They can cause buildings and bridges to fall down, and pipes to explode.

Tsunamis are huge waves that can destroy towns, caused by earthquakes that happen under the sea.

Where do earthquakes happen in the USA and why?

*Why do most earthquakes happen on the western coast of the USA?*

Most of the earthquakes that happen in the USA are in the states of California, Oregon and Washington. This is because these states sit on top of a fault line, where two tectonic plates meet and bump into each other, causing earthquakes.

*Why are there 2 other areas of the USA that have earthquakes?*

Another area of high earthquake activity is around Yellowstone National Park, which is on top of a supervolcano. Lastly, there is a small area in the central part of the USA that is vulnerable to strong earthquakes, because of how old the rocks are there.

Summer Week 5 Geography Lesson 2

Can I identify which parts of the USA are vulnerable to earthquakes and why?

**Green answers:** Please see the above  
examples in the red and yellow  
challenges for possible ideas your  
child could write in their leaflet.

## What are earthquakes and why do they happen?

## What are earthquakes and why do they happen?

[illegible]

## What impact do earthquakes have?

[illegible]

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## Where do earthquakes happen in the USA and why?

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