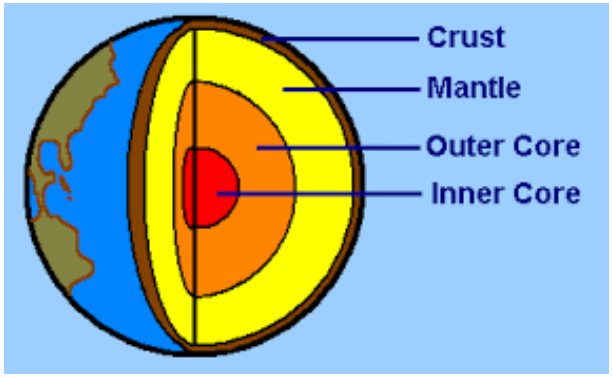
Earthquakes: What makes the Earth shake, rattle and roll?

Earthquake	A sudden violent shaking of the ground, typically causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action. Every thirty seconds, there is an earthquake somewhere in the world. Some earthquakes are barely detected while others cause immense damage and loss of life.
Tectonic plates	**Plate tectonics** is the theory that Earth's crust is divided into **plates** that glide over the Earth's mantle.
Fault lines	The place where tectonic plates meet
Plate boundary	Another name for the place where tectonic plates meet
Convergent boundary	Tectonic plates moving closer together
Divergent boundary	Tectonic plates moving further apart
Transform boundary	Tectonic plates where two slides pass one another
Hypo-centre	The site of the earthquake (underground)
Epi-centre	The point directly above where the earthquake originates from
Landslide	A collapse of earth or rock caused by an earthquake
Tsunami	A long, high sea wave caused by an earthquake
Tremor	A vibration caused by slippage of the Earth's crust at a fault, especially before or after an earthquake



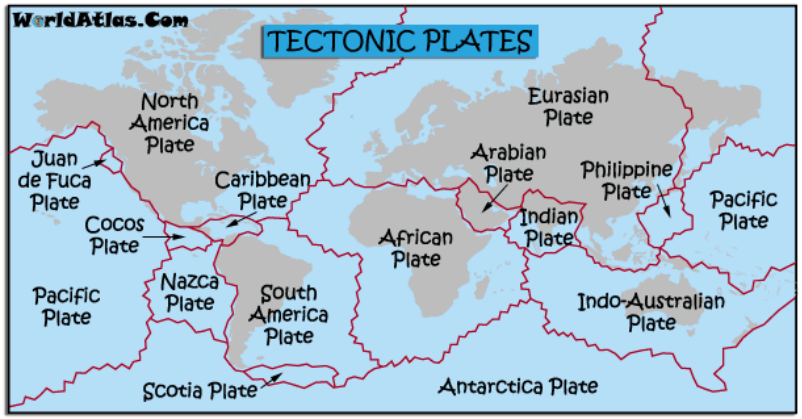
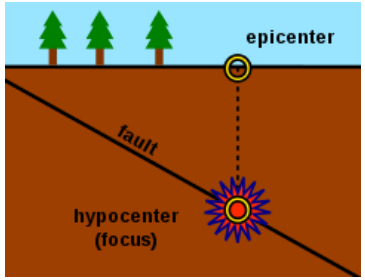


Plate boundaries



Measuring earthquakes	
Magnitude	A measure of the energy of an earthquake
Richter scale	The Richter scale measures the strength of an earthquake from 1 to 10
Mercalli scale	This measures how much damage is caused by the earthquake based on observations. It is measured on a scale between I and XII
Seismometer	A seismometer is a machine that draws a graph (seismograph) to show movements in the earth