

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## EARTHQUAKES: When the Earth Moves

The people of San Francisco were asleep. It was early on the morning of April 18, 1906. Suddenly, the earth seemed to shake and roll. Buildings collapsed and crushed people. Gas and water lines burst and fires started.

A great earthquake had struck. In two minutes, the city was nearly flattened. This became the most famous earthquake in U.S. history.

Think of a puzzle. If you shake the pieces, they fall apart. That happens underground from time to time. The earth shifts and separates. This motion is felt as an earthquake. The movement lasts just seconds. But the damage continues for years.



Earthquakes are given points to measure their power. One that is 2.0 points is weak. The strongest would be 8.9 points. The San Francisco quake was 8.3 points.

Strong as that was, it was not our worst quake. In 1964, a quake in Alaska measured 8.5 points. During that quake, a man was fishing in his small boat. Suddenly, the force of the quake swept him towards land. When it stopped, he and his boat were inside a schoolhouse! They were five blocks inland.

Scientists try to predict when quakes will strike. They measure movement in the earth's crust. They also check the heat inside the ground. Someday they may be able to give "earthquake warnings."

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1. Where was the most famous earthquake in U.S. history? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Where was the worst quake in U.S. history? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Why does an earthquake happen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. What is a word that means "fallen down"? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What is a word that means "to guess ahead of time"? \_\_\_\_\_