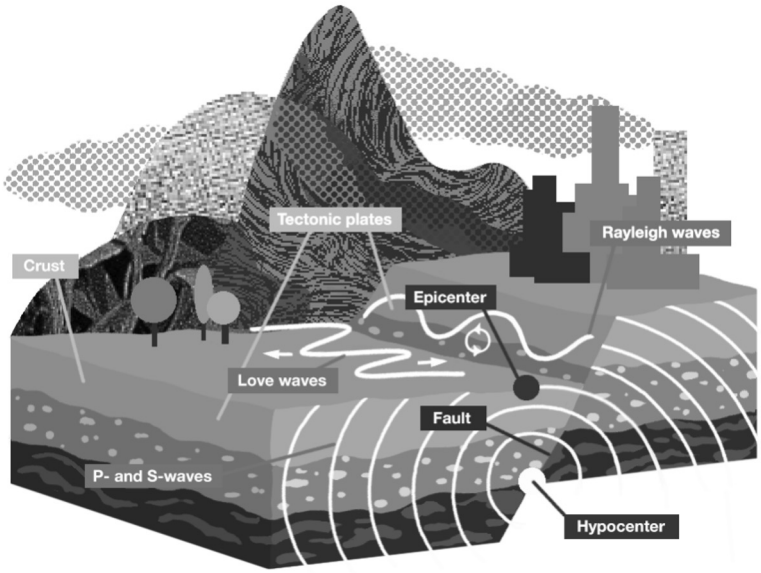
Earthquakes

An *earthquake* is a sudden movement of tectonic plates that causes energy in s and p waves to be transmitted through the crust. The Earthquake occurs at a *fault* between two *tectonic plates* at the *epicenter*.



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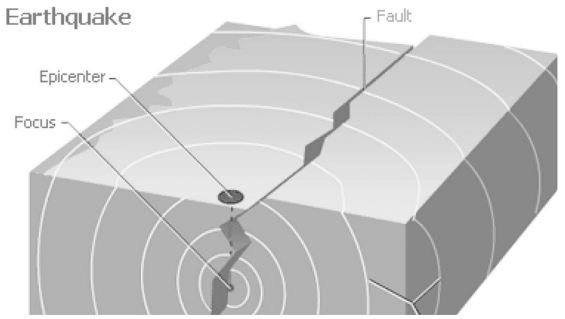
Earthquake Progress

The earthquake begins at the top of the earth crust at the *epicenter* above the *fault*.

In California, the two interacting *plates* are the Pacific and North American Plates, meeting at the *San Andreas Fault*, a fault 650 miles long and 10 miles deep. Additional smaller faults include the *Hayward* and *San Jacinto faults* which branch off the *San Andreas fault.*



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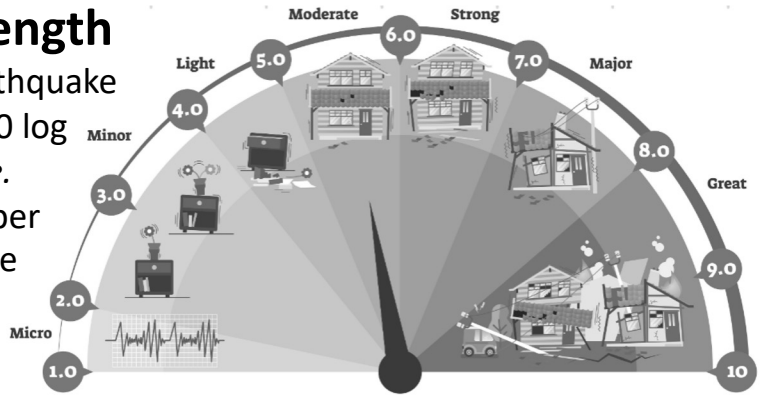
Earthquake Strength

The strength of an earthquake is based on the base 10 log scale, the *Richter Scale.* Each progressive number is 10x stronger than the last number on the Richter Scale



Notable Earthquakes

San Francisco (1906)	Baja California (2010)	Northridge (1994)
7.9	7.4	6.7

The San Fran Quake (7.9) was over 10x more powerful than Northridge (6.7)!

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Northridge Earthquake (1994, 6.7)

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