

# EARTHQUAKES

## CHAPTER 6



# THE BIG IDEA

**Earthquakes cause seismic waves that can be devastating to humans and other organisms.**

## Lesson 1: Earthquakes and Plate Boundaries

- Most earthquakes occur at plate boundaries when rocks break and move along faults.

## Lesson 2: Earthquakes and Seismic Waves

- Earthquakes cause seismic waves that provide valuable data.

## Lesson 3: Measuring Earthquakes

- Data from seismic waves are recorded and interpreted to determine the location and size of an earthquake.

## Lesson 4: Earthquake Hazards and Safety

- Effects of an earthquake depend on its size and the types of structures and geology in a region.

# **LESSON 1: EARTHQUAKES AND PLATE BOUNDARIES**

**Most earthquakes occur at plate boundaries when rocks break and move along faults.**

**What you'll learn:**

- **Explain what an earthquake is.**
- **Describe how faults and earthquakes are related.**
- **Understand that most earthquakes occur at plate boundaries.**

## **So What?!**

**Understanding what causes earthquakes helps scientists identify where they are likely to occur in the future.**

# REVIEW

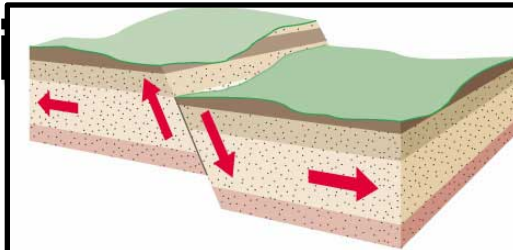
## VOCABULARY

### **fault**

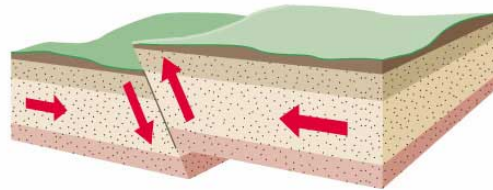
**A fracture in rock along which rocks on one side have moved relative to rocks on the other**

Normal

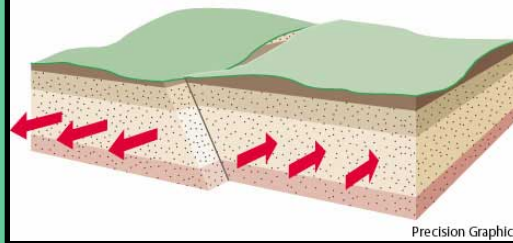
S



Reverse



Strike-Slip



S.A.F.



# NEW VOCABULARY

**Earthquake** Rupture and sudden movement of rocks along a fault.

**Elastic Strain** Energy stored as a change in shape.

**Focus** Place on a fault where rupture and movement begin.

# ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**Interact**      To act on each other

**\* Lithospheric plates interact at different boundaries and produce earthquakes.**

# WHAT IS AN EARTHQUAKE?

Sequence the changes in energy that occur leading up to an earthquake.

**Heat energy moves through Earth's mantle by convection.**



**Some of the heat energy is transformed into kinetic energy.**



**Kinetic energy is stored as elastic strain.**



**When rocks cannot change shape anymore, faults break.**

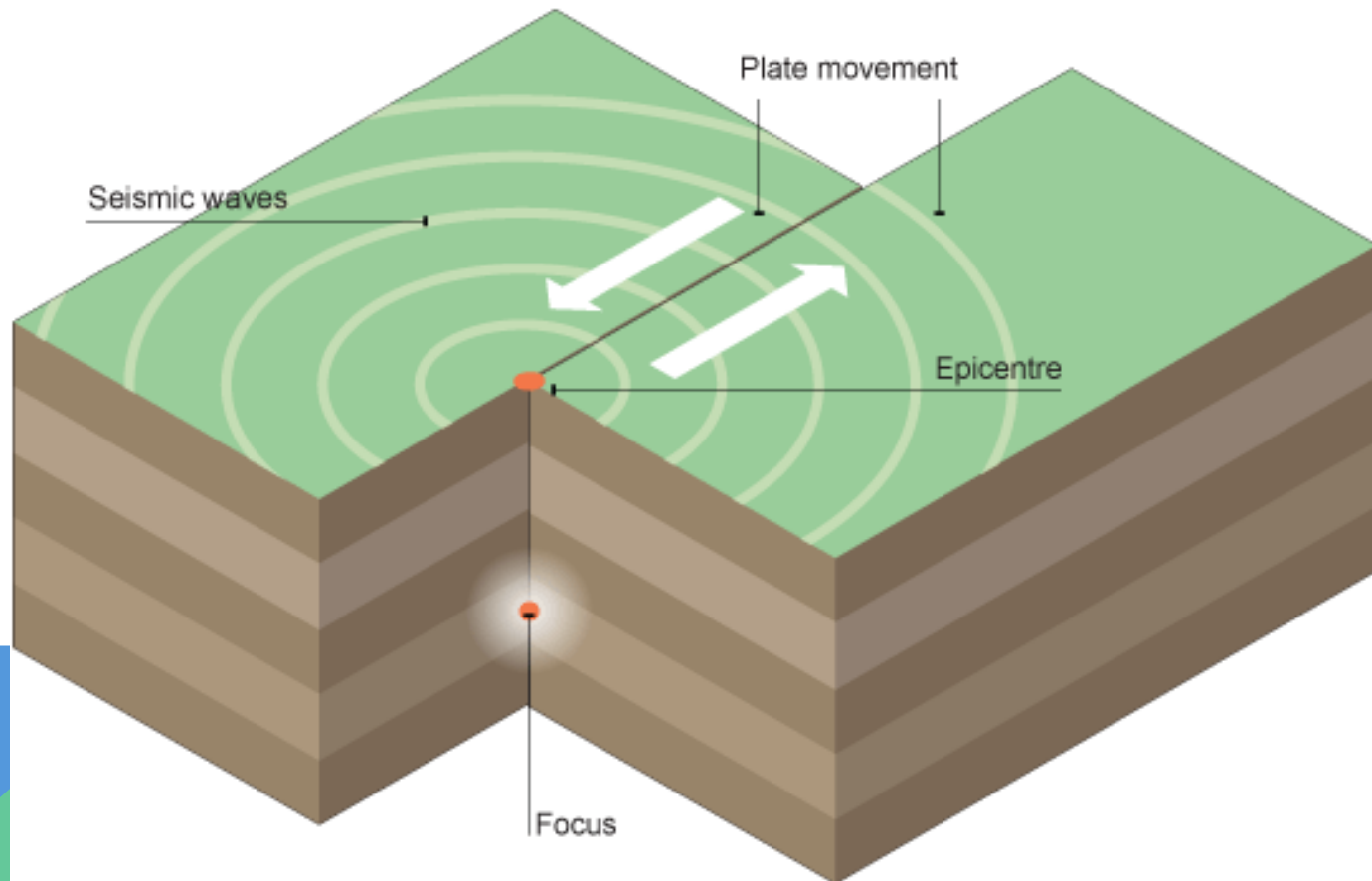
# WHAT IS AN EARTHQUAKE?

Summarize what happens after elastic strain builds up in rocks.

When elastic strain builds up, rocks rupture where they are weakest. Either a new fault will form, or the rupture will occur along an older fault.

# WHAT IS AN EARTHQUAKE?

**Model the spread of seismic waves from the focus of an earthquake. Use arrows to show how waves spread.**





# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Summarize the two main  
ideas of the above  
sections.**

# PLATE BOUNDARIES & E.Q.s

Distinguish between the types of earthquakes that occur at each type of plate boundary.

	Divergent Boundary	Convergent Boundary	Transform Boundary
Type of Stress	tension	compression	shear
Type of Fault	normal	reverse	Strike-slip
Magnitude of Earthquake	Relatively small	Largest; most devastating EQs	Can be severe

# PLATE BOUNDARIES & E.Q.s

Organize information about earthquakes that occur away from plate boundaries. Complete the concept map.

Continents may have started to split, but then stopped.

Stresses at today's plate boundaries build up inside plate.

May occur at old, buried faults.

Rarely Occur.

EQs away from plate boundaries

```
graph TD; A[Continents may have started to split, but then stopped.] --> E((EQs away from plate boundaries)); B[Stresses at today's plate boundaries build up inside plate.] --> E; C[May occur at old, buried faults.] --> E; D[Rarely Occur.] --> E;
```

The diagram is a concept map with a central blue circle labeled 'EQs away from plate boundaries'. Four arrows point towards this central circle from surrounding rectangular boxes. The top-left box is light green and contains the text 'Continents may have started to split, but then stopped.' The top-right box is a darker green and contains 'Stresses at today's plate boundaries build up inside plate.' The bottom-left box is orange and contains 'May occur at old, buried faults.' The bottom-right box is blue and contains 'Rarely Occur.' The background of the slide features abstract geometric shapes in shades of blue and green.

# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Summarize the main ideas  
of the above section with  
two bullet points.**

# LESSON 1 Review

## Summarize

Create your own lesson summary as you write a script for a **television news report**.

1. **Review** the text after the **red** main headings and write one sentence about each. These are the headlines of your broadcast.
2. **Review** the text and write 2–3 sentences about each **blue** subheading. These sentences should tell *who, what, when, where,* and *why* information about each **red** heading.
3. **Include** descriptive details in your report, such as names of reporters and local places and events.
4. **Present** your news report to other classmates alone or with a team.



## Standards Check

### Using Vocabulary

1. Use the words *focus* and *earthquake* in the same sentence. **1.d**
2. In your own words, write a definition for *elastic strain*. **1.d**

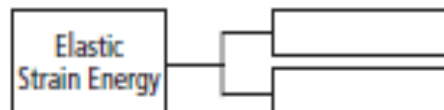
### Understanding Main Ideas

3. What is an earthquake? **1.d**
  - A. elastic strain stored in rocks
  - B. a wave traveling through the crust
  - C. rupture and movement along a fault
  - D. a fault at a convergent plate boundary
4. **Give an example** of a common object that can store elastic strain energy. **1.d**

5. **Explain** why the deepest earthquakes occur at convergent plate boundaries. **1.e**
6. **Compare and contrast** a fault and a fault zone. **1.e**

### Applying Science

7. **Simulate** the buildup and release of elastic strain energy using a wooden stick. **1.d**
8. **Describe** Draw a diagram like the one below. Describe two ways elastic strain energy is released during an earthquake. **1.d**



**Science**  **online**

For more practice, visit **Standards Check** at [ca6.msscience.com](http://ca6.msscience.com).



# **LESSON 2: EARTHQUAKES AND SEISMIC WAVES**

**Earthquakes cause seismic waves that provide valuable data.**

**What you'll learn:**

- **Explain how energy released during earthquakes travel in seismic waves.**
- **Distinguish among primary, secondary, and surface waves.**
- **Describe how seismic waves are used to investigate Earth's interior.**

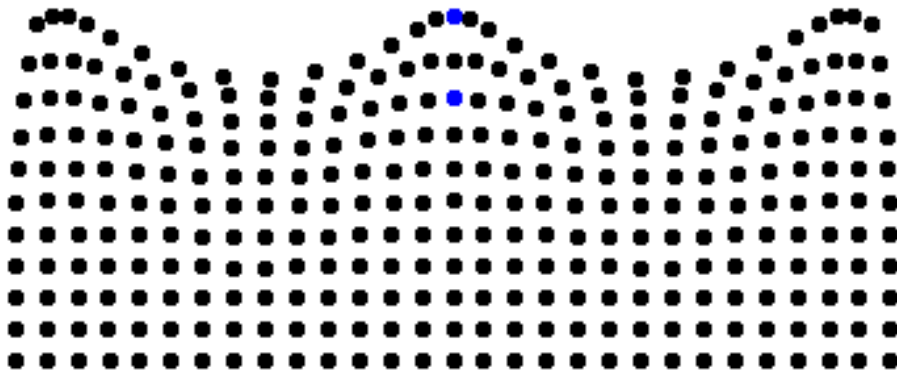
## **So What?!**

**Scientists can locate the epicenter of an earthquake by analyzing seismic waves.**

# REVIEW

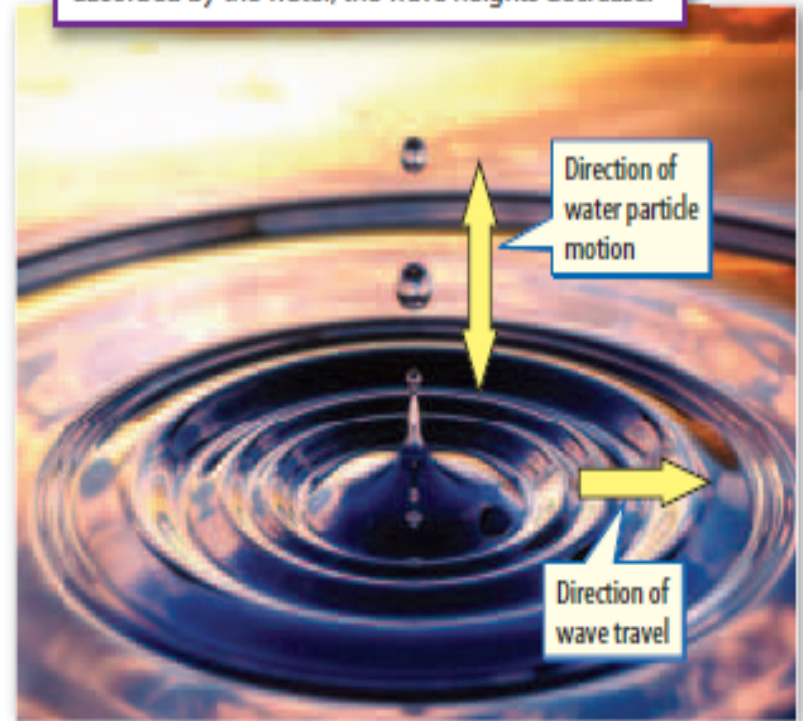
# VOCABULARY

**wave** - A wave transfers energy from place to place.



©1999, Daniel A. Russell

**Figure 7** A pebble, dropped in a pond, sends seismic waves outward in all directions. As energy is absorbed by the water, the wave heights decrease.



# **NEW VOCABULARY**

## **Primary Wave**

**Compressional wave with particle motion in the same direction the wave travels.**

## **Seismic Wave**

**Wave of energy produced at the focus of an earthquake.**

## **Secondary Wave**

**Shearing wave with particle motion perpendicular to the direction of wave travel.**

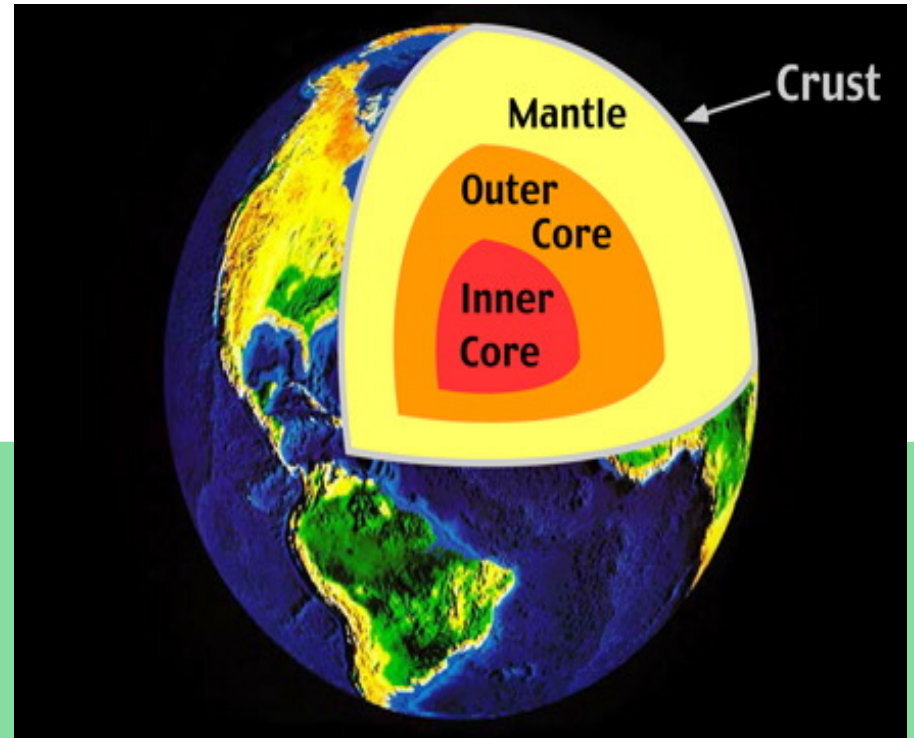
## **Epicenter**

**Point on Earth's surface directly above an earthquake focus.**

# ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

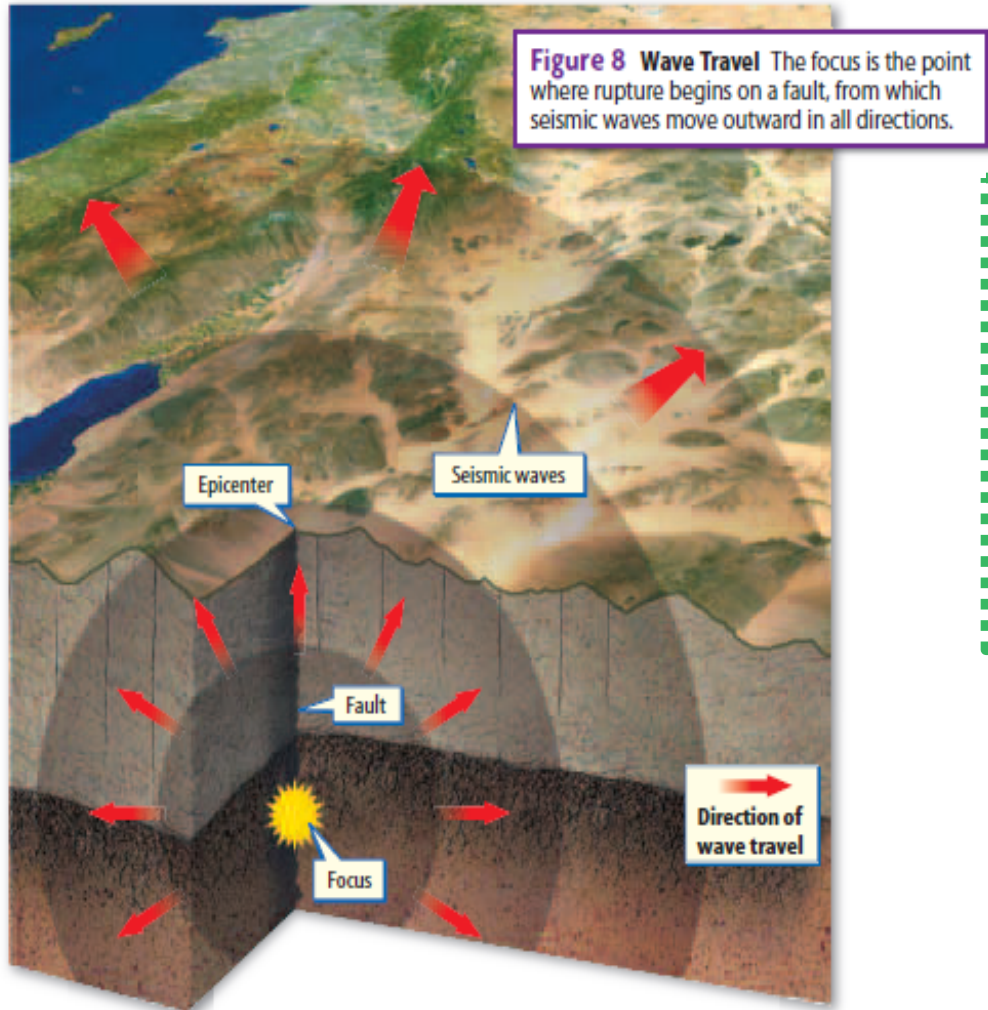
**Internal** - Existing within the limits or surface of something.

**Scientists study  
the internal  
structure of  
Earth.**



# WHAT ARE SEISMIC WAVES?

Model how energy travels during an earthquake as seismic waves.



Diagrams should show the amount of energy decreasing as distance from the epicenter increases.



# TYPES OF SEISMIC WAVES

Classify the three types of seismic waves..

## Seismic Waves

```
graph TD; A[Seismic Waves] --> B[Primary Waves, or P-Waves]; A --> C[Secondary Waves, or S-Waves]; A --> D[Surface Waves]; B --> B1[Description: Particle motion in the same direction as the wave propagation]; B --> B2[Also called: Compressional Waves]; C --> C1[Description: Particle motion perpendicular to the direction of wave propagation]; C --> C2[Also called: Shear Waves]; D --> D1[Description: Particles move in either a side-to-side swaying motion or a rolling motion.];
```

### **Primary Waves, or P-Waves**

**Description:**  
Particle motion in the same direction as the wave propagation

**Also called:**  
**Compressional Waves**

### **Secondary Waves, or S-Waves**

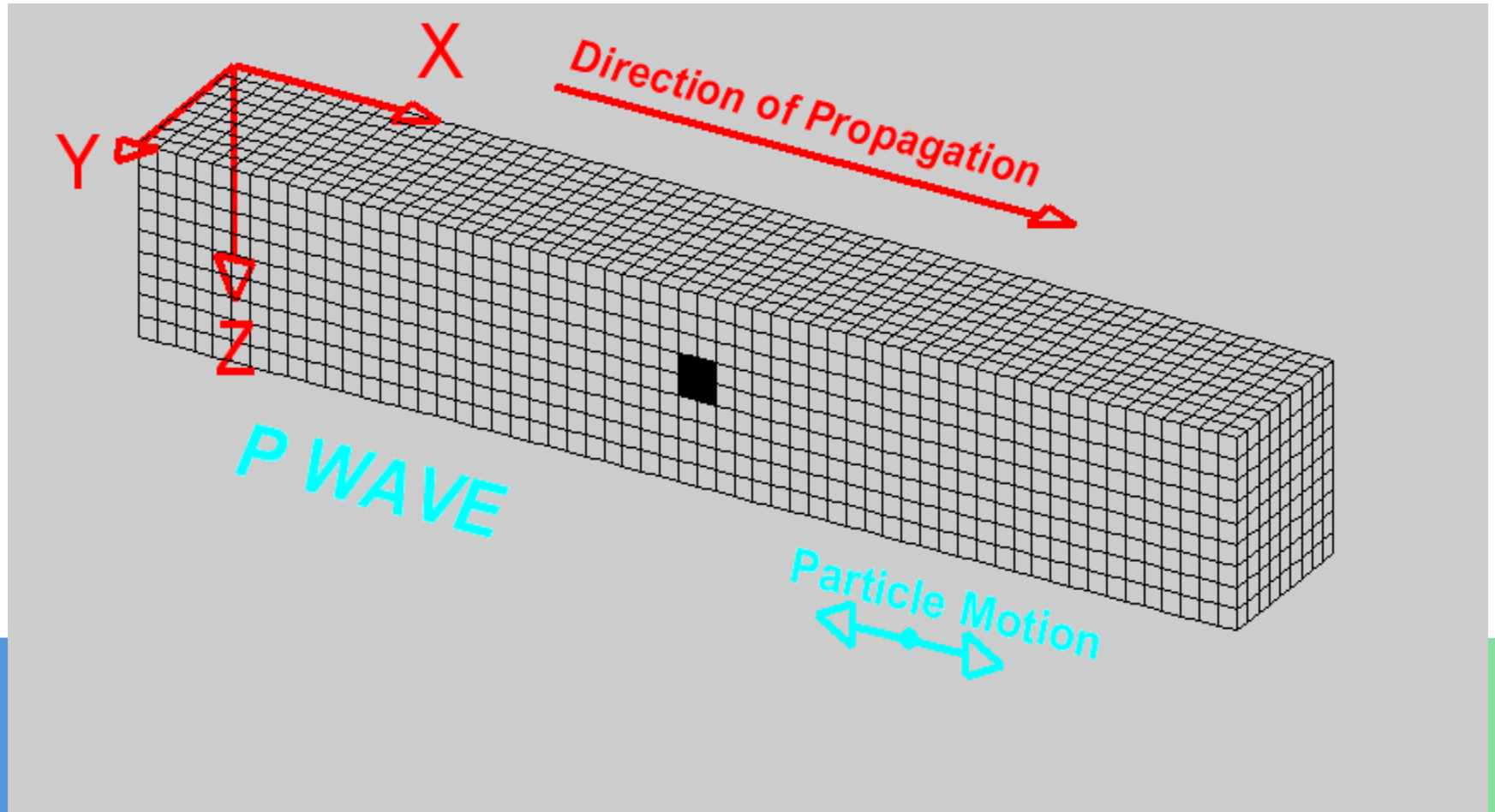
**Description:**  
Particle motion perpendicular to the direction of wave propagation

**Also called:**  
**Shear Waves**

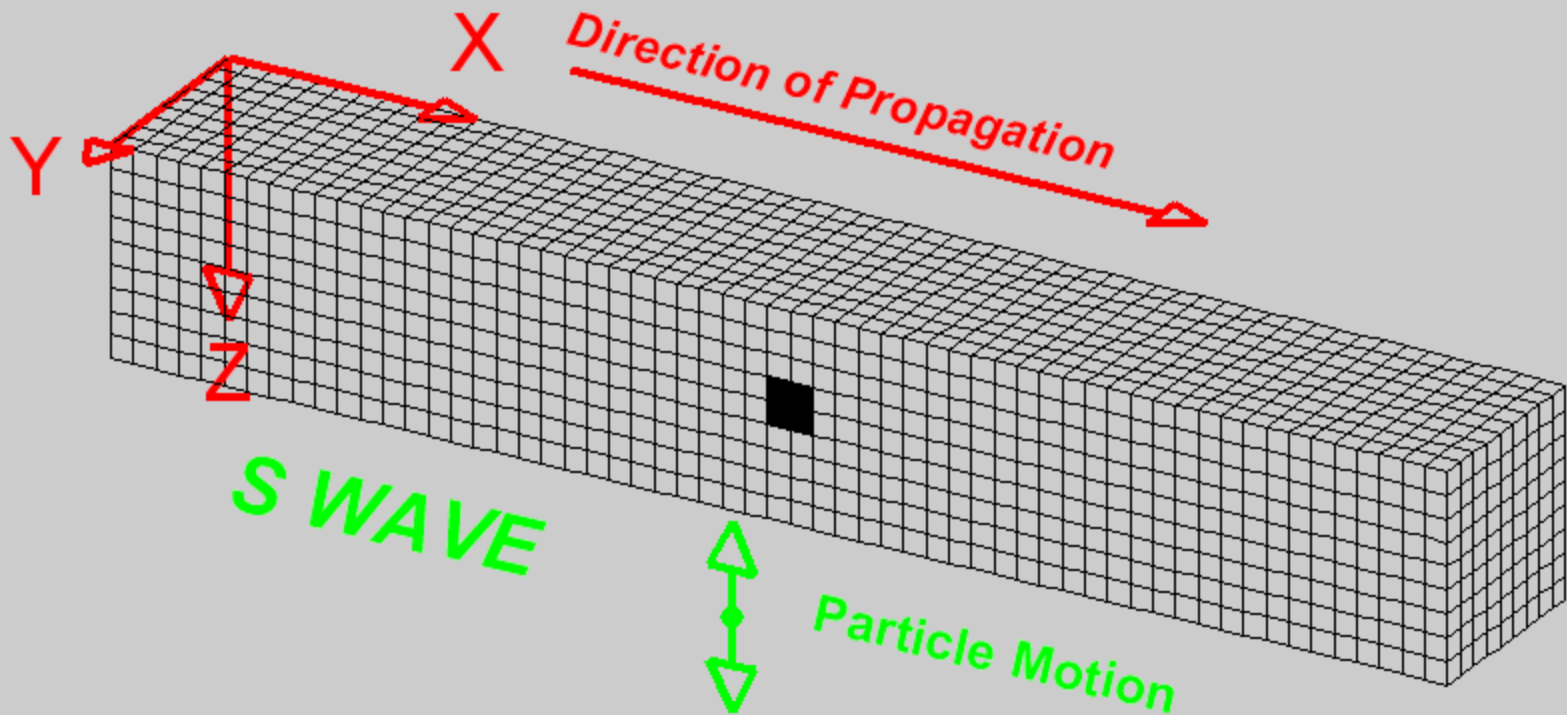
### **Surface Waves**

**Description:**  
Particles move in either a side-to-side swaying motion or a rolling motion.

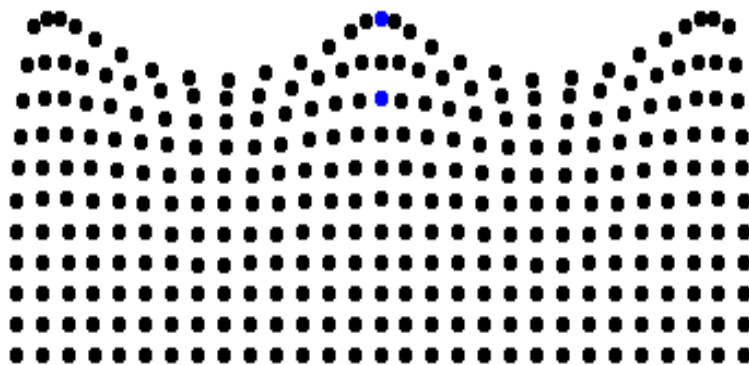
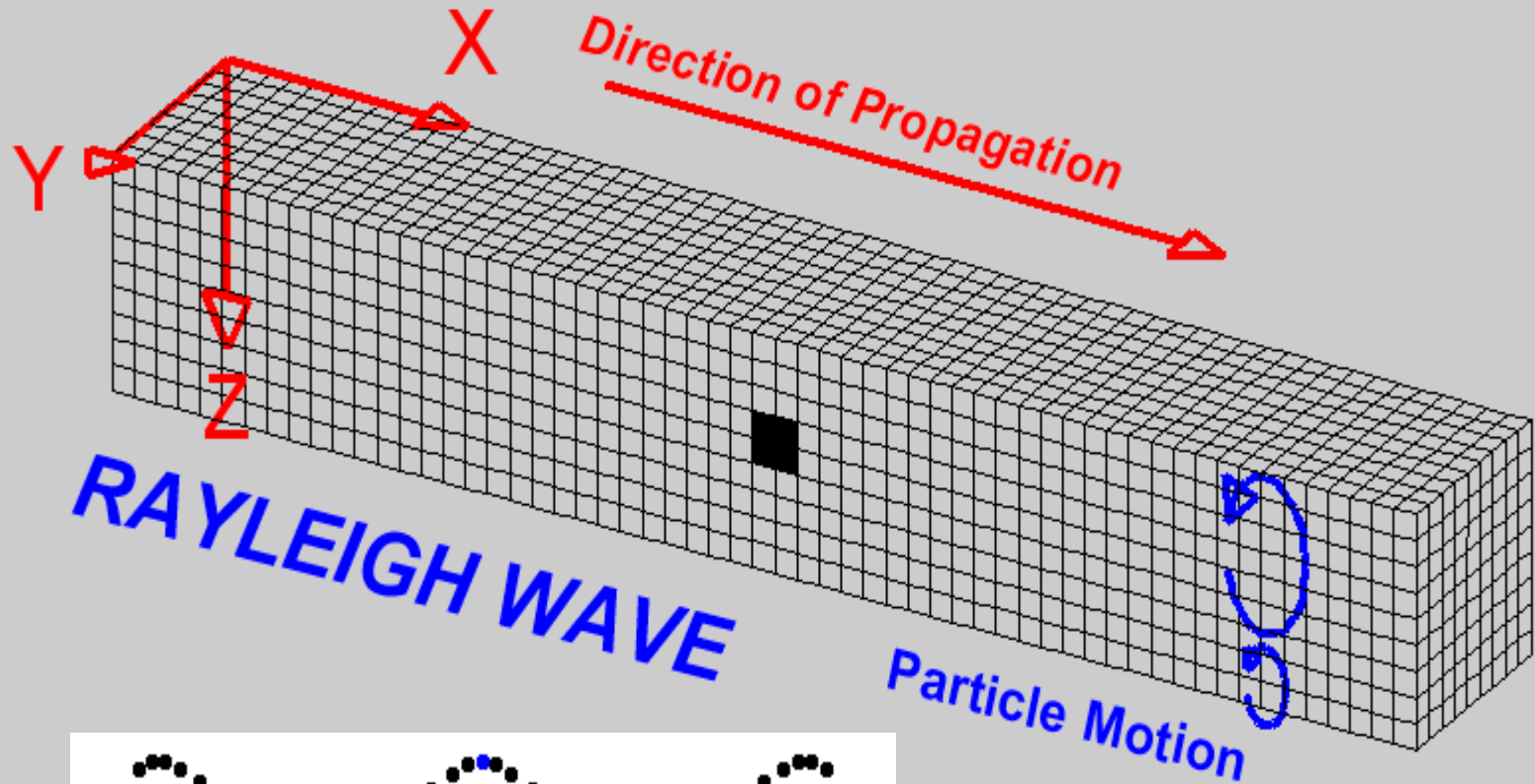
# Primary Wave (P-Wave)



# Shear Wave (S-Wave)



# Surface Wave



# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Rephrase the two main ideas from the above sections in your own words.**



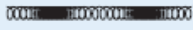
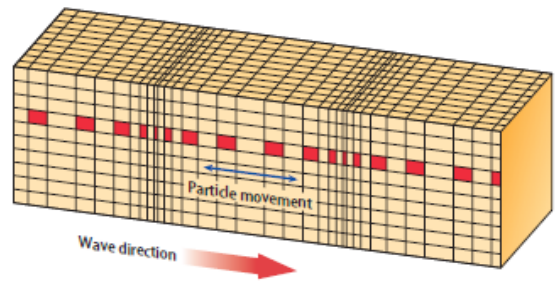

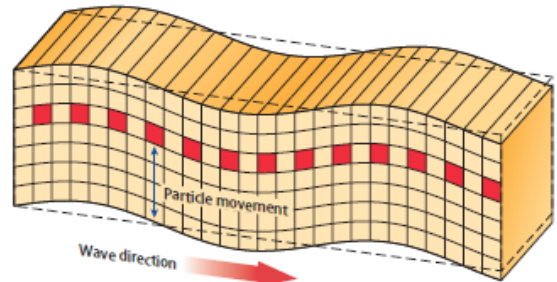
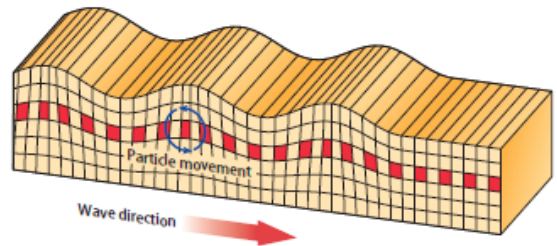
# USING SEISMIC WAVE DATA

Model how P-waves, S-waves, and surface waves travel in an earthquake.

1

2

3

Table 1 Types of Seismic Waves	
Seismic Wave	Description
<b>P-Waves</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cause rock particles to vibrate in same direction that waves travel</li><li>• fastest seismic wave</li><li>• first to be detected and recorded by scientific instruments</li><li>• travel through both solids and fluids</li></ul>	
<b>S-Waves</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cause rock particles to vibrate perpendicular to direction that waves travel</li><li>• slower than P-waves</li><li>• detected and recorded after P-waves</li><li>• only travel through solids</li></ul>	
<b>Surface Waves</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cause rock particles to move with a side-to-side swaying motion or rolling motion</li><li>• slowest seismic wave</li><li>• generally cause the most damage at Earth's surface</li></ul>	

Concepts in Motion  
Interactive Table Organize  
information about seismic waves  
at [ca6.msscience.com](http://ca6.msscience.com)

Stick this table in your  
notes on Science  
Notebook p. 61.

Be sure to show that P-  
waves will arrive first,  
followed by S-waves, and  
then surface waves.

# USING SEISMIC WAVE DATA

Outline discoveries scientists have made using seismic waves.

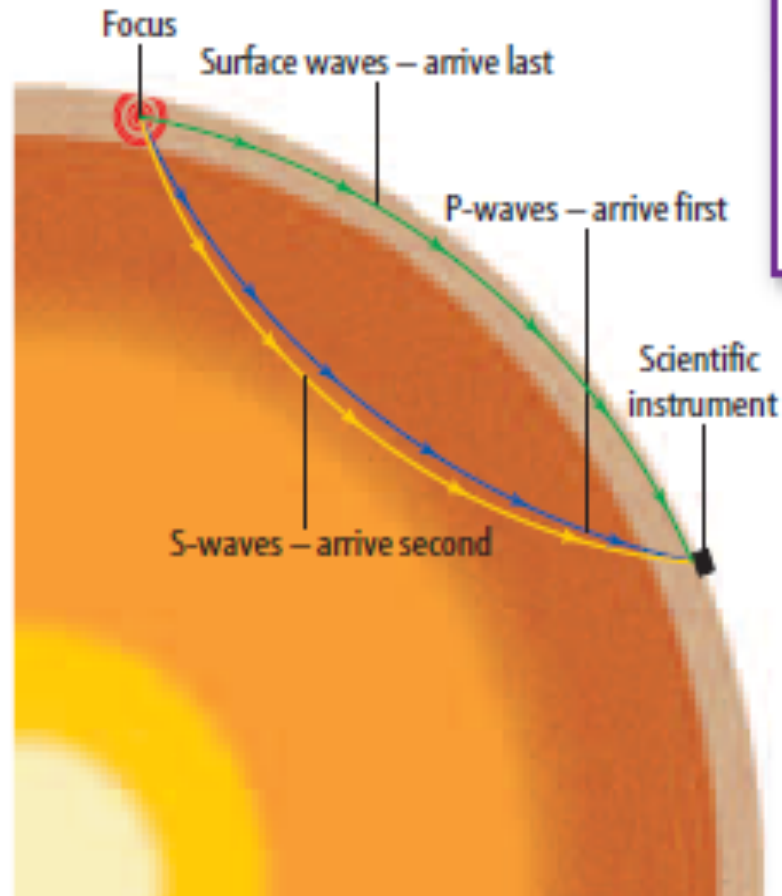
## I. Internal Structure

- A. Waves bounce or bend as they approach a new layer.
- B. Rock densities make waves curve as they pass through Earth.

## II. Shadow Zone

- A. Definition: area that receives no seismic waves
- B. S-waves pass only through solids, so outer core must be liquid.

# USING SEISMIC WAVE DATA

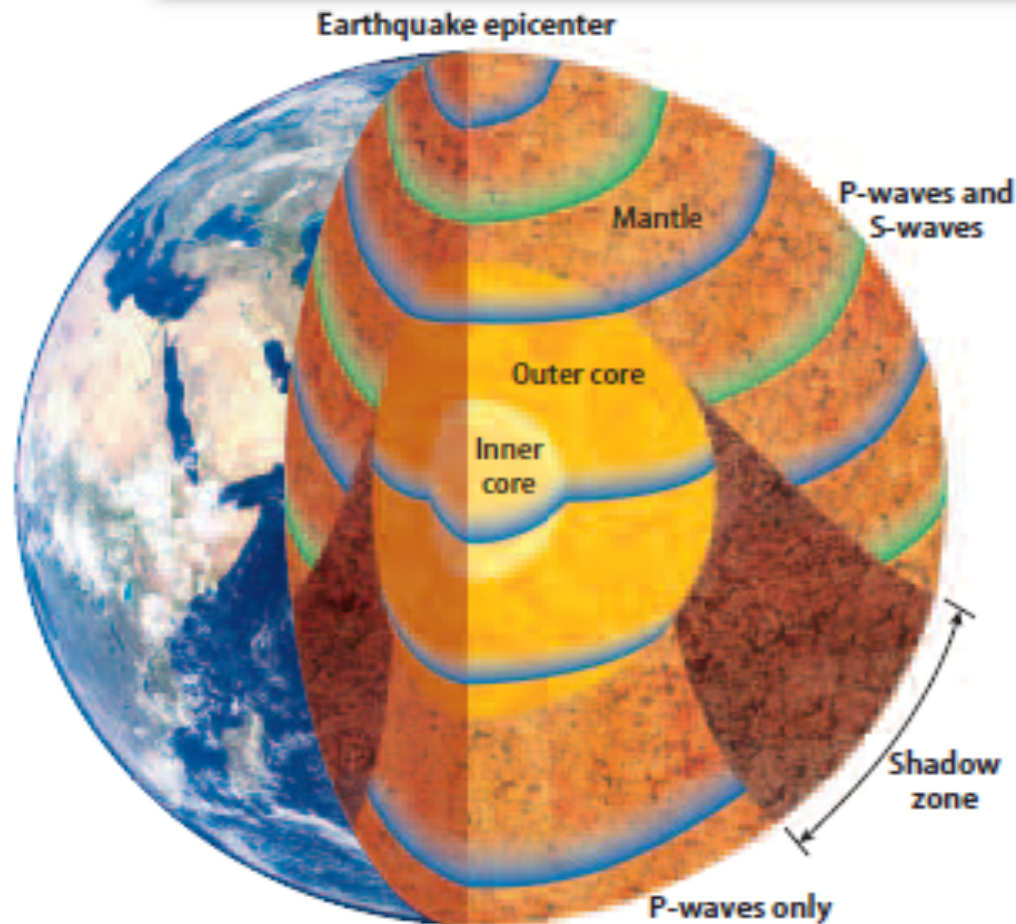


**Figure 9** Different types of seismic waves start at the same location, but move at different speeds.

**Identify** which seismic wave first reached the instrument.

# USING SEISMIC WAVE DATA

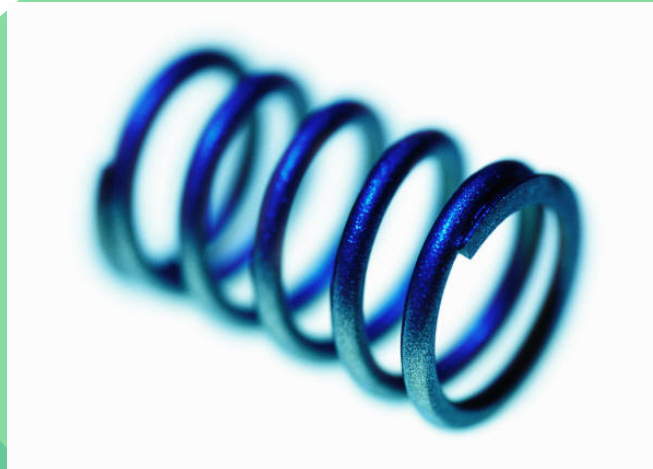
**Figure 10 Earth's Layers** The paths and speeds of P-waves and S-waves help scientists determine the internal structure of Earth.



# SUMMARIZE IT!

**Summarize the main ideas  
of the above sections.**

**Click on the spring for a virtual slinky lab!**





## LESSON 2 Review

### Summarize

Create your own lesson summary as you organize an **outline**.

1. **Scan** the lesson. Find and list the first **red** main heading.
2. **Review** the text after the heading and list 2–3 details about the heading.
3. **Find** and list each **blue** subheading that follows the **red** main heading.
4. **List** 2–3 details, key terms, and definitions under each **blue** subheading.
5. **Review** additional **red** main headings and their supporting **blue** subheadings. List 2–3 details about each.



ELA6: R 2.4



### Standards Check

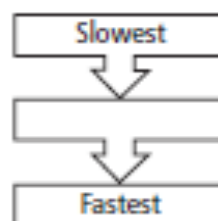
#### Using Vocabulary

1. Distinguish between a *primary wave* and a *secondary wave*. **1.g**
2. In your own words, write a definition for the word *epicenter*. **1.g**

#### Understanding Main Ideas

3. How do surface waves move rock particles? **1.g**
  - A. parallel to direction of wave travel
  - B. rolling motion or side-to-side
  - C. perpendicular to direction of wave travel
  - D. diagonally
4. **Give an example** of how seismic waves provide valuable scientific data. **1.g**
5. **Describe** what happens to the energy of seismic waves as the distance from the focus increases. **1.g**

6. **Sequence** Draw a diagram like the one below. Arrange the types of seismic waves in order of increasing wave speed. **1.g**



#### Applying Science

7. **Illustrate** the vibration direction and the direction of travel for an S-wave. **1.g**
8. **Hypothesize** what happens to P-waves and S-waves when they encounter magma. **1.g**

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For more practice, visit **Standards Check** at [ca6.msscience.com](http://ca6.msscience.com).

# **LESSON 3: MEASURING EARTHQUAKES**

**Data from seismic waves are recorded and interpreted to determine the location and size of an earthquake.**

**What you'll learn:**

- **Explain how a seismograph records an earthquake.**
- **Understand how to locate an earthquake's epicenter.**
- **Distinguish among ways earthquakes are measured.**

## **So What?!**

**Measuring earthquakes helps scientists understand how and where they occur.**

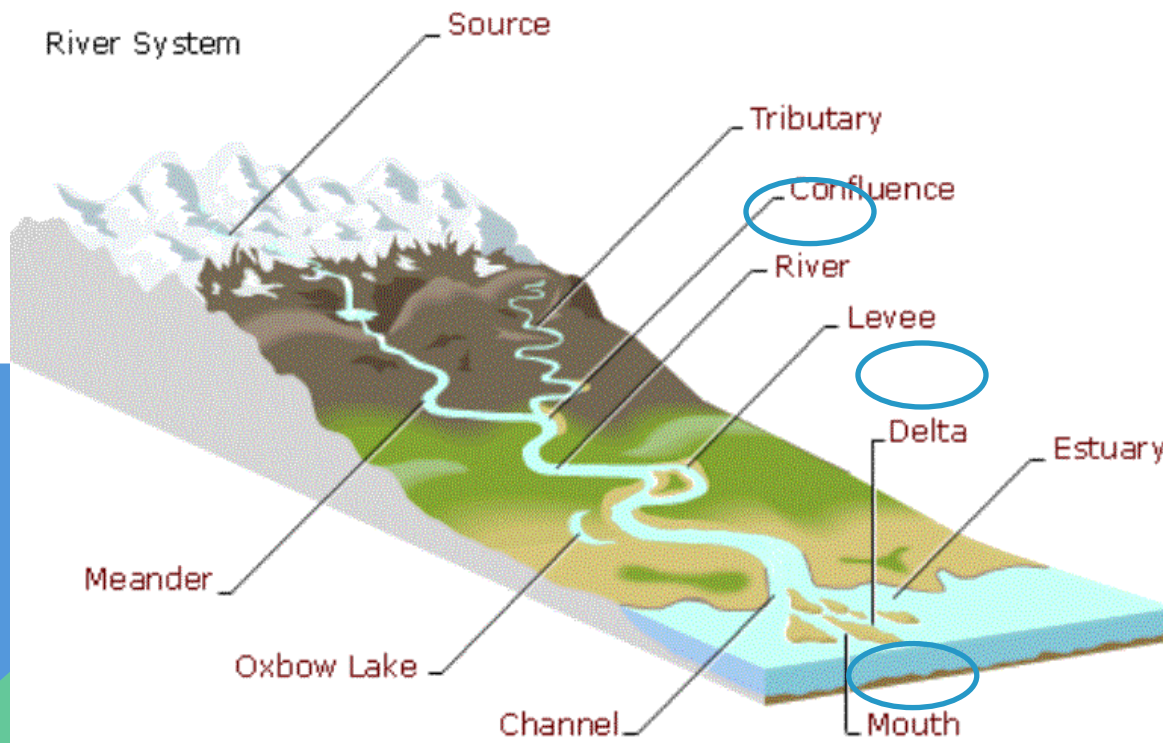


# REVIEW

## VOCABULARY

**sediment**

**Rock material that is broken down into smaller pieces or that is dissolved in water.**

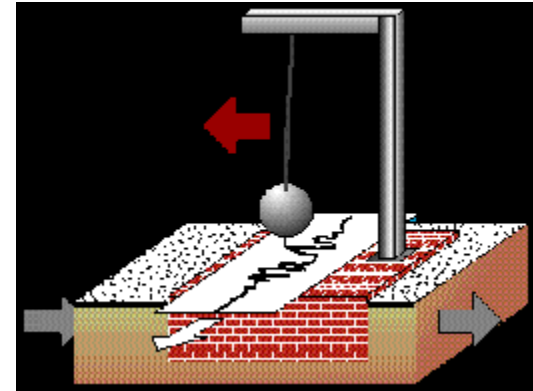


**As water runs down the mountain through the river, it picks up sediments from along the banks and carries them to the mouth.**

# NEW VOCABULARY

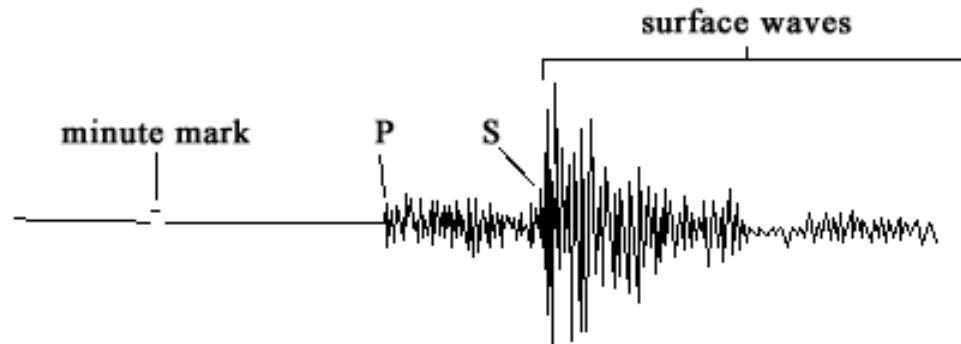
**seismograph**

**Instrument used to record and measure movements of the ground caused by seismic waves.**



**seismogram**

**Paper record of seismic waves.**



# ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**indicate** - To demonstrate or point out with precision.

The points on the graph  
indicate the temperatures  
calculated over a period of  
time.

# HOW ARE E.Q.s MEASURED?

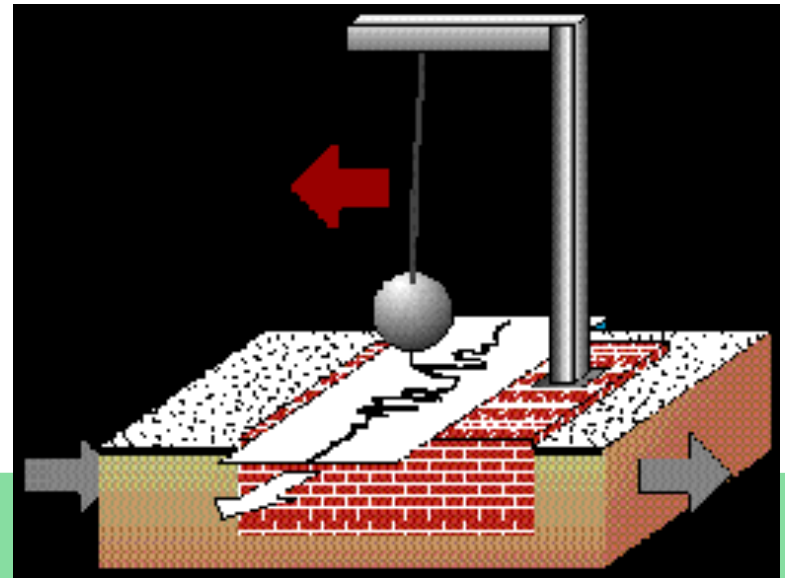
Analyze how scientists determined the size of the  
December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake.

**Scientists measured how much the  
rock moved along the fault and  
measured the heights of the seismic  
waves.**

# HOW ARE E.Q.s MEASURED?

Summarize how a mechanical seismograph works.

**When seismic waves shake the ground, the pen and pendulum in the seismograph remain still as the drum holding the paper moves. The pen records the motion on the drum.**




# LOCATING AN EPICENTER

Sequence the steps scientists use to locate the epicenter of an earthquake.


**Find the difference in the arrival times of the P- and S- waves**



**Plot the P-wave and S-wave arrival time differences against time. Use the graph to find the distance to the epicenter.**



**Plot the distance on a map. Draw a circle with a radius equal to that distance.**



**Plot distances from at least three (3) seismographs. The place where the circles intersect is the epicenter.**

# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Summarize one main idea  
from each section above.**



# MEASURING EQ SIZE

Distinguish between the scales used to measure the magnitude of earthquakes.

## Richter Magnitude Scale

Scale is based on:

**seismogram records**

Magnitude values:

**Range from 0 to 9; each increase of one number equals 10 times the ground shaking and about 30 times the energy.**

## Moment Magnitude

Scale is based on:

**The amount of energy released; calculated using**

- ❖ **the size of the fault rupture,**
- ❖ **how much it slips, and**
- ❖ **the strength of broken rocks.**

# EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY

Analyze factors that affect earthquake intensity.

## Factors that affect intensity

Factor: Distance  
from the epicenter

Effect:  
Energy is absorbed  
and spread, so  
intensity decreases  
as distance  
increases.

Factor:  
Local geology

Effect:  
Loose sediments  
or fill shake more  
violently than  
rocks do.

# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Highlight the main ideas of each section above in the following passage.**

**Scientists use magnitude scales to measure the movement and energy released by earthquakes, and intensity to describe how much damage earthquakes cause. The Richter scale measures the amount of movement recorded on a seismogram. The moment magnitude is determined by the amount of energy released. It varies with the distance from the epicenter and the geology of the area.**

# **LESSON 4: EQ HAZARDS & SAFETY**

**Effects of an earthquake depend on its size and the types of structures and geology in a region.**

**What you'll learn:**

- **Describe the various hazards from earthquakes.**
- **Give examples of ways to reduce earthquake damage.**
- **List ways to make your classroom and home more earthquake safe.**

## **So What?!**

**Preparing for an earthquake can save lives and reduce damage to property.**

# REVIEW VOCABULARY

**San  
Andreas  
Fault**

**Fault zone that forms a transform plate boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate (p. 224)**

# NEW VOCABULARY

**liquefaction**

**Process in which earthquake shaking makes loose sediment behave like liquid**

**tsunami**

**Ocean wave caused by earthquakes**



# NEW VOCABULARY

**securely**

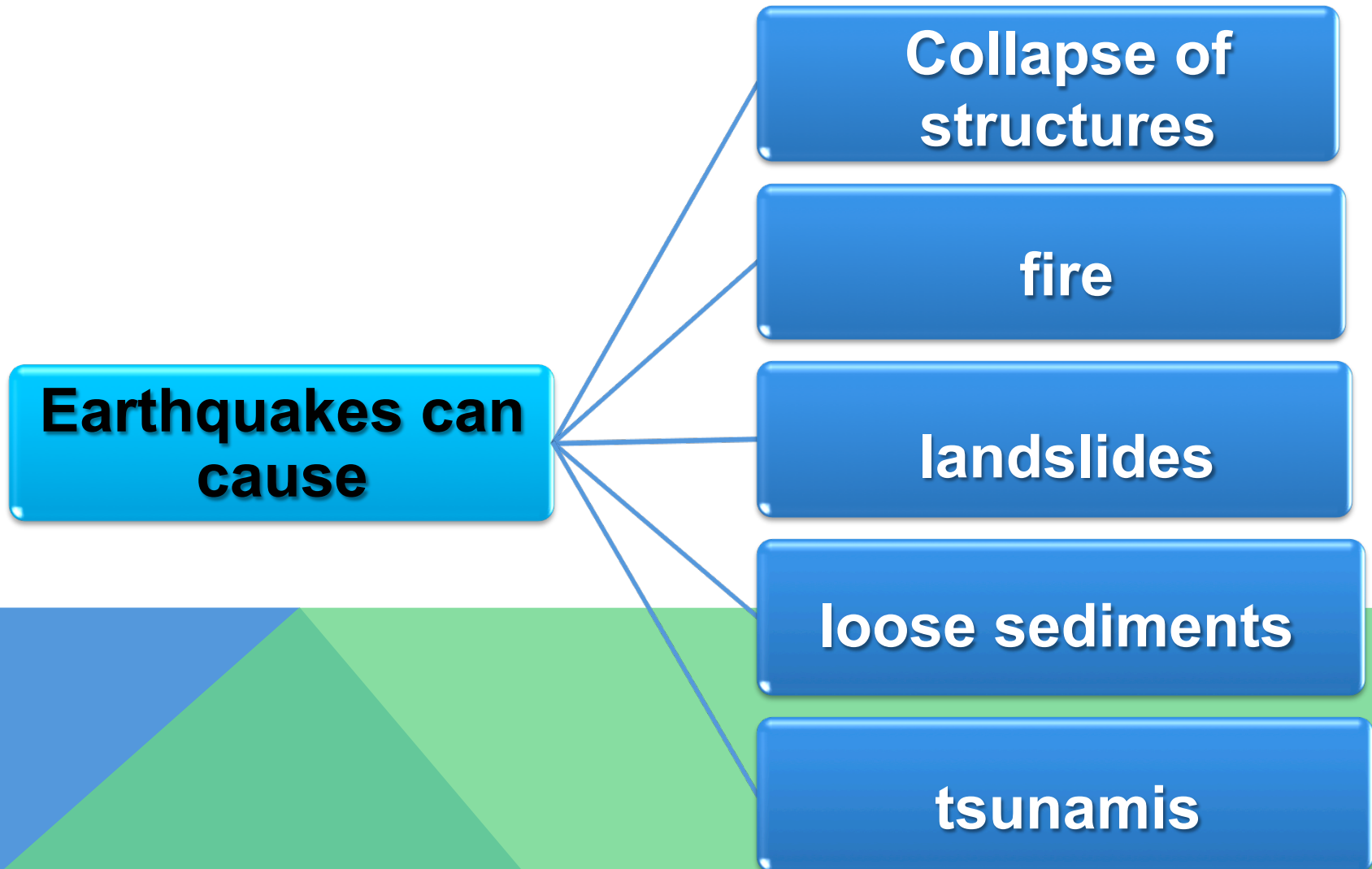
**Free from risk of loss.**

**\*The bank keeps its funds  
securely protected.**



# EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS


Identify five hazards that might result from an earthquake.



# EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

Explain how liquefaction occurs and how it damages buildings.

**Liquefaction occurs when shaking from an earthquake causes wet soil to act like a liquid. When liquefaction occurs in soil under buildings, buildings sink into the soil and collapse.**

The bottom of the slide features a decorative design with overlapping geometric shapes. On the left, there is a blue triangle pointing towards the center. To its right is a larger green triangle pointing towards the right. The rest of the bottom section is a solid light green background.

# EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

Sequence the events that cause a tsunami.

**An  
earthquake  
occurs  
under the  
ocean.**

**The  
seafloor  
moves  
suddenly.**

**The  
movement  
pushes  
against the  
water,  
causing  
powerful  
waves.**

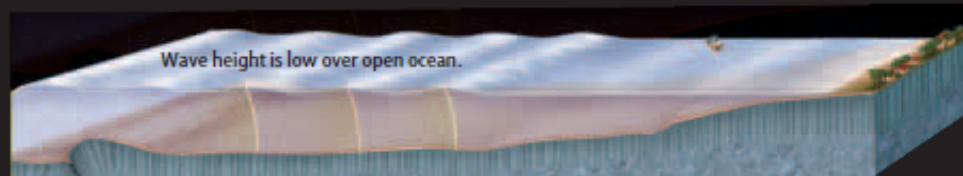
# Visualizing Tsunamis

**Figure 21**

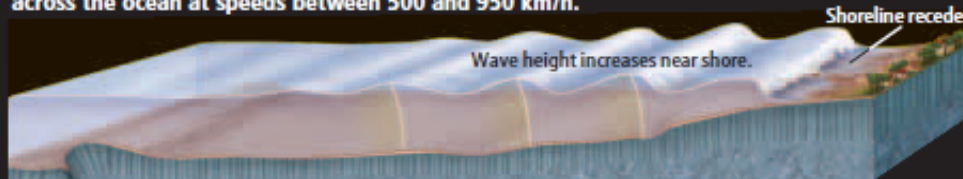
The diagrams below show the development of a tsunami—an ocean wave that usually is generated by an earthquake and is capable of great destruction.



Sudden up or down movement along an underwater fault causes powerful waves that are transferred to and spread across the water's surface.

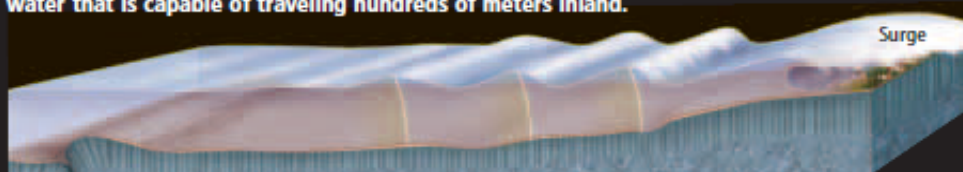


Tsunami waves are less than 1 meter high in deep water and travel across the ocean at speeds between 500 and 950 km/h.



When a tsunami wave reaches shallow water, friction slows it down and causes it to roll up into a wall of water—sometimes 30 m high. Just before the tsunami crashes to shore, the water near a shoreline may move rapidly outward toward the sea.

The tsunami wave crashes into the shoreline, causing a surge of water that is capable of traveling hundreds of meters inland.



# AVOIDING EQ HAZARDS

Summarize how scientists determine the risk of earthquake hazards in an area.

**Scientists use geologic maps to identify areas with loose sediment and other places where landslides, liquefaction, or tsunamis are likely to occur.**

# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Summarize the main ideas  
of the above sections.**

# E.Q.s & STRUCTURES

Outline how building planning can help reduce loss of life during an earthquake.

## I. Types of buildings

- A. Buildings made of flexible materials generally suffer less damage than buildings made of brittle material.
- B. Single-story buildings are less susceptible to damage than taller buildings.

## II. Earthquake-resistant structures

- A. Some new buildings are supported by flexible, circular moorings.
- B. In other buildings, steel rods are used to reinforce building walls.



# EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

Model tips for staying safe during and after an earthquake.

## Indoors

- ❖ Move away from windows & objects that can fall.
- ❖ Take shelter in an interior doorway or under a sturdy table or desk.
- ❖ Have adults shut off water and gas if damaged.

## Outdoors

- ❖ Stay in the open, away from power lines.
- ❖ Stay away from damaged buildings and beaches.

# **SUMMARIZE IT!**

**Summarize two main ideas  
of the above sections of  
this lesson.**