

Name

Date

Year 4 • Science • Earth and its habitats

Shake, Rattle, Earthquakes!

Read each question carefully. Use the science words you know.



Warm up



1

An earthquake is... (*circle one*)

1 mark

a sudden shaking of the ground a very hot wind a giant storm a
river bursting its banks

2

This ground was cracked open by an earthquake. Explain what caused the ground to break like this.

2 marks



3

Complete the sentences. Earthquakes happen when pieces of the Earth's _____ suddenly move. The place where an earthquake starts is deep _____ the ground.

2 marks

crust • under

4

Tick the **two** things that can happen because of an earthquake.

2 marks

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ buildings crack and fall down | ☐ a giant sea wave is made |
| ☐ snow falls in summer | ☐ a rainbow appears |

Practice



5

An earthquake under the sea can send a giant wave towards the coast.

3 marks

(a) Write down the name of this giant wave. _____

(b) Describe **one** way people living on the coast can be warned that the wave is coming.

6

Write down **two** things a person should do during an earthquake to stay safe.

2 marks

1.

2.

7

Sort these five actions into the table: *get under a strong table* · *run outside next to tall buildings* · *stay away from windows* · *use the lift to get out* · *cover your head with your arms*.

4 marks

Safe during an earthquake	Not safe during an earthquake

8

Decide whether each statement about earthquakes is true or false.

3 marks

Statement	true	false
Earthquakes can happen under the sea as well as on land.	☐	☐
Scientists can say the exact day an earthquake will happen.	☐	☐
Most earthquakes last only a few seconds or minutes.	☐	☐

Challenge



9

Scientists give each earthquake a strength number. The table shows what each strength usually does.

4 marks

Strength	2	4	6	8
What people notice	not felt	dishes rattle	walls crack	buildings collapse

(a) At what strength would you first feel the ground move? _____

(b) A town has an earthquake of strength 6. Describe what happens.

(c) Explain why a strength 8 earthquake in a city is more dangerous than the same earthquake in an empty desert.

10

In places with many earthquakes, tall buildings are built on strong steel frames that can bend a little. Explain why bending is better than being completely stiff.

3 marks

11

Earthquakes and volcanoes are often found in the **same** parts of the world. Explain why.

3 marks

12

A tsunami often causes more damage than the earthquake that started it. Suggest why.

2 marks

