

# Earthquakes



1. Earthquakes occur when the outer layer of Earth, the tectonic plates which are constantly moving, get stuck then suddenly move!
2. Earthquakes can cause very large waves in the oceans; this is called a Tsunami.
3. Weather does not affect earthquakes. They can occur in any weather or climate.
4. Earthquakes are more likely to occur in the state of Alaska, USA than in any other inhabited state on Earth.
5. The first ever recorded earthquake can be traced back to 1831 BC in the Shandong province of China.
6. The place where an earthquake starts is called a hypocenter, it is below the ground. The epicenter is the ground above where an earthquake starts.
7. The biggest earthquake ever recorded was a 9.5 magnitude earthquake which occurred in Chile on May 22, 1960. It lasted for 10 minutes!
8. After a major earthquakes, small minor earthquake called aftershocks will likely occur and this can be very dangerous as it may cause damaged buildings and structures to collapse.
9. The country where most earthquakes occur is Japan; this is because it is on the edge of the Pacific ocean and this is where tectonic plates are located.
10. British Engineer, John Michell is credited for identifying the cause of earthquakes at the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He helped people to understand that earthquakes are caused by shifting rock mass below the Earth's surface and not because of giant catfish as some believed.