



Teacher Resource

Earthquakes

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN High story as a class and record the main points of discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Which two countries experienced two massive earthquakes in February 2023?
2. What are tectonic plates?
3. How do tectonic plates cause earthquakes?
4. Australia is right on the edge of a tectonic plate. True or false?
5. What is the name given to a person who studies earthquakes?
 - a. Seismologist
 - b. Geologist
 - c. Oceanologist
6. How do seismologists measure the magnitude of an earthquake?
7. What was the biggest earthquake ever recorded in Australia?

Activities

- Imagine you're a seismologist. Research an earthquake that's happened in the past. Create a slideshow or write a report to show your findings about that quake.
- Design and construct a model of a building that can withstand damage from earthquakes. Students will use the engineering design process to build their own structures with toothpicks, skewers and plasticine.
- Write a feature article about an earthquake that's happened in Australia. Include details on when it happened, what magnitude it was, if it caused any damage, and quotes from anyone who experienced it.

EPISODE 12

15th February 2023

KEY LEARNING

Students will discover what causes earthquakes and learn about the role of a seismologist.

CURRICULUM

[Science - Year 9 \(v8.4\)](#)

[Science – Year 8 \(v9.0\)](#)