Geography: How and why do places change?

Year 4 Summer 2

Key Facts

Why learn about change?
Learning how and why places change is an important part of being a geographer. Some places change slowly; others change quickly. But they are always changing.

Why do places change?

Some places change because people have decided to make improvements to an area. It might be that more families are moving in to an area so they need more schools, or it may be that an area is trying to become more sustainable. Can you think of any changes to the school, your street or the local area? What might have been the reason behind these changes?

Others places change because they are forced to. Natural disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and floods, can cause large scale damage and destruction. People who live in areas affected by natural disasters are forced to rebuild their communities.

Around the world, there are around 20,000 earthquakes a year – that's approximately 55 per day! The majority of these are not large enough to cause major damage, but earthquakes with a magnitude over 6 on the Richter Scale can cause large scale destruction. Some countries are well-prepared to deal with the threat of earthquakes and are able to rebuild quicker than other countries, who may have less money and resources.

Key Vocabulary

Census – a survey which takes place every 10 years. It asks questions about you, your household and your home.
Earthquake – a vibration in the Earth's crust.
Epicentre - the point on the surface of Earth immediately above the focus of the earthquake.
Focus - the point at which Earth's plates release their tension and from which shock waves emanate.
Infrastructure – the basic facilities and systems serving a country, region or community.
Richter Scale – a scale used to measure the magnitude (the size) of earthquakes. The scale ranges from 0-9. Earthquakes that measure over 6 can cause a lot of damage.
Tsunami - a catastrophic ocean wave.

Website Links

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/zj89t39
- https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/earthquake
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z8f44xs
- Explore how the UK has changed. Log on to https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/ to view current and historical maps of the UK. **Username:** S138HH **Password:** febbed6604

Enquiry Questions

- Why do places change?
- What is an earthquake?
- Why does New Zealand have so many earthquakes?
- Why do some earthquakes cause more damage than others?
- How and why has our local area changed?
- How might our local area change in the future?

Geographical Concepts

Sustainability– exploring how we impact our own ecology and how injustice exists across communities and the world.
Environmental Geography – looking at how we use the natural world and how people have the ability to change it. Understanding how the environment supports and enriches human life by providing raw materials, food and resources.

Geographical Skills

- Locate the world's countries where earthquakes occur, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics and major cities.
- Describe and understand key aspects of earthquakes.
- Describe how a settlement has changed over time with reference to human features.
- Explain how people are trying to manage their environment.

Why don't you…

- Create a 3D model to teach someone how earthquakes happen?
- Visit one of your favourite places and think about how it might change in the future?
- Make a list of the largest earthquakes ever recorded?

A Map of Earthquakes in 2017

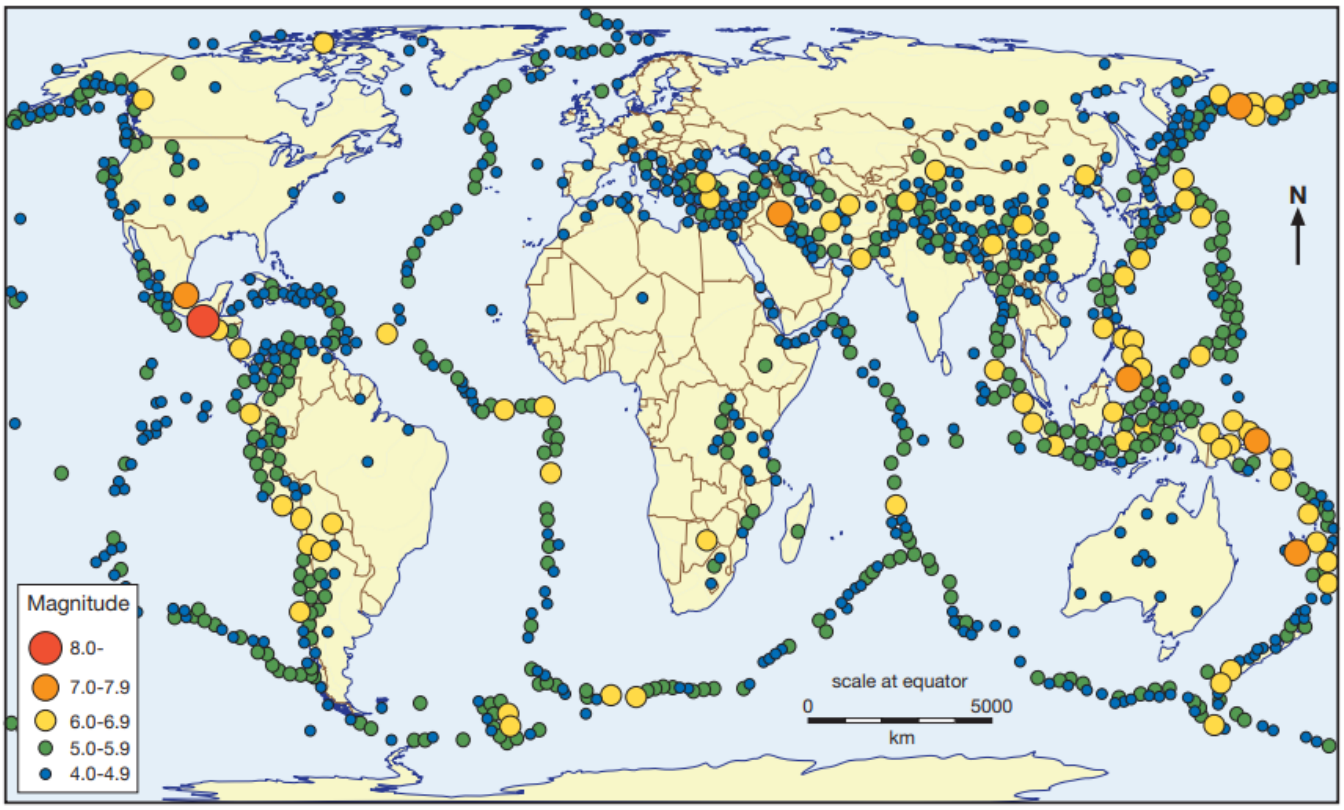


Diagram of an Earthquake

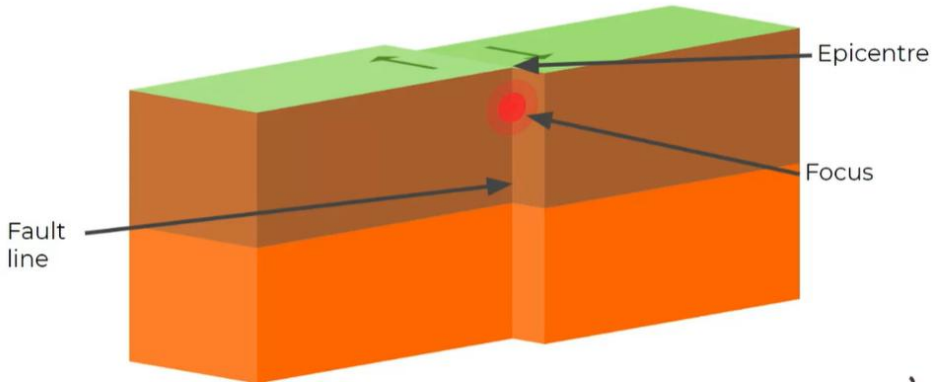
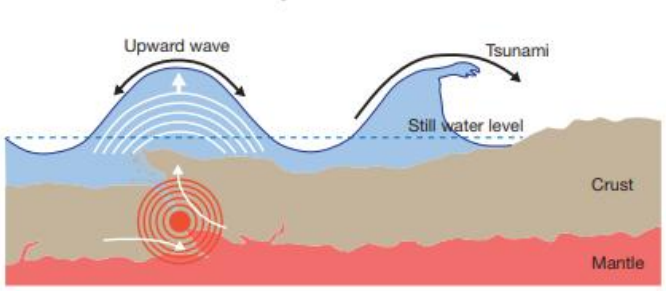


Diagram to Illustrate the Causes of Tsunamis

Earthquake Tsunami



Volcano Tsunami