

# Primary Geography: Explain this...

## Earthquakes

Every thirty seconds there's an earthquake somewhere in the world. Although, don't worry, most are minor.

The Earth's surface is made up of a number of plates that are almost always moving.

Most earthquakes happen where these plates meet.

Some of these plates slide past each other, causing friction to build up.

While some move towards each other, causing a build-up of pressure.

When these forces - friction or pressure - are released, they produce a violent jolt that shakes the land: an earthquake.

Although most are minor, a major earthquake can cause a lot of destruction.

So in parts of the world where earthquakes are common, people take precautions. For example, they don't make buildings very tall, so they won't fall down easily.

Sometimes, they use rubber foundations to absorb some of the force coming from the earthquake's tremors.

Plastic is used in windows, rather than glass.

Schools in these countries practise what to do if an earthquake happens, like sheltering under a desk to protect yourself from falling objects.

The Earth's plates will keep moving and earthquakes will continue to occur.

All people living in countries affected by earthquakes can do is be prepared to manage their destructive power.