

What's Shaking?



Complete each sentence. Use the word bank.

1. An earthquake is a _____, or trembling, of the ground.
2. This shaking is caused by a sudden release of energy stored in the rocks _____ the earth's surface.
3. Earthquakes happen where the earth's crust is weak and there is a buildup of pressure under the _____.
4. This pressure is caused by _____ movements.
5. In a _____ release of pressure, the rocks shake or crack.
6. As the rocks move, they _____ out vibrations that make the ground shake. These vibrations are known as seismic waves.
7. The waves _____ out from an underground point.
8. This _____ _____ point is called the focus.
9. The force of the _____ depends on the depth of the focus, the strength of the surrounding rock, and how much the rocks move.
10. The nearer the focus is to the earth's _____ _____, the greater the damage tends to be.
11. Two main types of waves are sent from the _____ _____: body waves and surface waves.
12. Body waves _____ inside the earth, extending out in all directions.
13. Surface waves travel on the earth's surface and _____ damage.
14. The waves sometimes make the land _____ _____ along a line called a fault.
15. At fault lines, rocks slip down, get pushed up, or slide _____ _____ each other.

Tip:
Draw the
waves. Draw
a diagram
to illustrate
each one.

Word Bank				
horizontally	crack	focus	ground	just
plate	land	shaking	split	spread
surface	surface	travel	underground	waves

Earthquakes are measured using a number system. What is this system sometimes called?

To find the answer, write each boxed letter on its matching numbered line. (Hint: Capitalize the letter for number 3.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12