

Online Information

The Earthshaking Earthquake Mystery

Earthquake Trivia

1. The Pacific Coast is the United States' most active earthquake zone. Florida and North Dakota have the least number of earthquakes, and Alaska has the most.
2. More than 8,000 earthquakes happen every day, but most are not strong enough to be noticed. That's about five or six every minute!
3. In 1811, an earthquake in Missouri knocked over chimneys 370 miles away in Cincinnati.
4. A really big earthquake can release 10,000 times the energy of the first atomic bomb.
5. Earthquake waves are measured by very sensitive instruments called seismographs.
6. Depending on the region, an earthquake can be caused by tectonic plate movement, volcanic activity, or explosions.
7. Earthquakes under the ocean can cause huge waves called tsunamis.
8. The Richter magnitude scale was developed in 1935 and measures ground motion caused by an earthquake.
9. The largest earthquake ever recorded was a 9.5 on the moment magnitude scale. It occurred in 1960 along the Pacific coast of Chile.
10. "Moonquakes" are earthquakes on the moon, but they are smaller and less frequent than the ones on Earth.
11. Earthquakes can happen in any weather.
12. The most deadly earthquake in recorded history was in China in 1556. It killed about 830,000 people who were living in caves carved out of soft rock.

