



## Summary

**Earth's Power: Earthquakes** describes how powerful earthquakes happen, what they are caused by and how to measure them. It addresses some especially destructive earthquakes and the effects they had on the surrounding area.

| Vocabulary |                 | Comprehension Strategy   | Genre Study                 | Text Features       |            |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| architect  | core            | Using graphic features,  | Text structure:             | table of contents   | headings   |
| crust      | epicenter       | Using prior knowledge to | Description/list structure, | photographs         | diagrams   |
| engineers  | focus           | understand text,         | Use of embedded definitions | charts              | captions   |
| landslides | magma           | Summarizing information  | and supporting details      | glossary            | text boxes |
| magnitude  | mantle          |                          |                             | bold glossary words | index      |
| molten     | tectonic plates |                          |                             |                     |            |
| tsunamis   |                 |                          |                             |                     |            |

## Standards: Geography and Science

- Knows natural hazards that occur in the physical environment
- Knows the physical processes that shape patterns on Earth's surface
- Understands earth composition and structure
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: [www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/](http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

## Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

### Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about earthquakes. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of the students. Introduce students to the vocabulary words by having them look at the glossary on page 30.

Discussion questions:

- Where would you find the *core* and the *crust* of the Earth?
- How are *earthquakes* and *tsunamis* related?
- Read the definition for *tectonic plates*. How are they affected by an earthquake?

### Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Earth's Power: Earthquakes** is an informational text

written as a description of earthquakes, their effects on the land they devastate, what causes them, and how they are measured. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the diagram on page 9. Then read the text on page 8. Does the diagram help explain the text or help you visualize what the text is saying?
- One important characteristic of information books is that they give a variety of examples of what is being described. Scan the book to find examples of major and minor earthquakes in history.

### Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

## Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Earth's Power: Earthquakes** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- How would you prepare/plan for an earthquake if you lived in an area where earthquakes were common?
- How is an earthquake an example of a natural disaster?
- Explain how an earthquake's occurrence is related to the three layers of the earth's interior.

## BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to complete the vocabulary map graphic organizer.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary Word Map**

Directions: Choose a vocabulary word from the glossary to complete the vocabulary word map.

