

Earth & Space Science – Chapter 8 Vocabulary

Earthquake	The vibration of Earth produced by the rapid release of energy.
Fault	A fracture in Earth along which movement has occurred.
Focus	The point within Earth where an earthquake originates.
Seismic Waves	Vibrations that travel through Earth carrying the energy released during an earthquake.
Epicenter	The location on Earth's surface directly above the focus, or origin, of an earthquake.
Elastic Rebound	Tendency for deformed rock along a fault to spring back to its original shape after an earthquake.
Aftershock	A small earthquake that follows the main earthquake.
P Wave	Earthquake wave that pushes and pulls on rocks in the direction of the wave; also known as a compression wave.
S Wave	A seismic wave that shakes particles perpendicular to the direction the wave is traveling.
Surface Wave	A seismic wave that travels along the surface of Earth.
Seismograph	An instrument that records seismic waves.
Seismogram	The record made by a seismograph.
Moment Magnitude	A more precise measure of earthquake magnitude than the Richter scale, which is derived from the amount of displacement that occurs along a fault zone and estimates the energy released by an earthquake.
Liquefaction	A phenomenon, sometimes associated with earthquakes, in which soils and other unconsolidated materials saturated with water are turned into a liquid that is not able to support buildings.
Tsunami	The Japanese word for a seismic sea wave.
Seismic Gap	An area along a fault where there has not been any earthquake activity for a long period of time.
Crust	The thin, rocky outer layer of Earth.
Mantle	The 2,890 kilometer thick layer of Earth located below the crust.
Lithosphere	The rigid outer layer of Earth, including the crust and upper mantle.
Asthenosphere	A weak plastic layer of the mantle situated below the lithosphere; the rock within this zone is easily deformed.
Outer Core	A layer beneath the mantle about 2,260 kilometers thick; the outer core contains liquid iron and generates Earth's magnetic field.
Inner Core	The solid innermost layer of Earth, about 1,220 kilometers in radius.
Moho	The Mohorovicic discontinuity, which is shortened to Moho; it is the boundary separating the crust from the mantle, discernible by an increase in the velocity of seismic waves.

Signatures

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