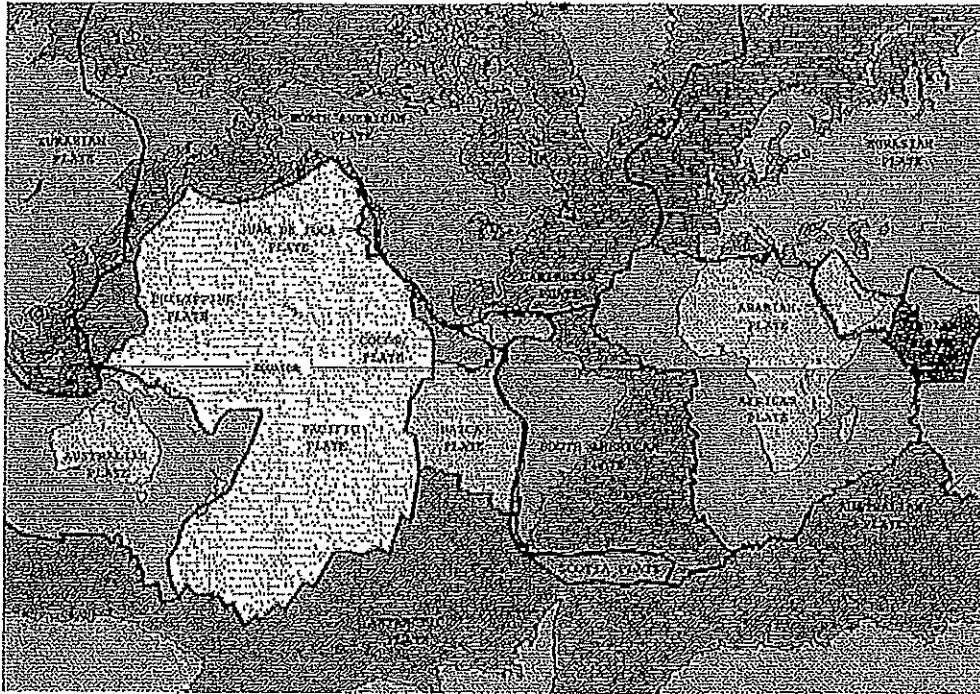


Earth Science - Earthquakes

by ReadWorks

8th grade



tectonic plates

One summer I was in Las Vegas with my family. Our hotel room was on one of the top floors of a high-rise building. There was a morning of that vacation I will never forget. We woke up around 6 A.M. The building was shaking and swaying back and forth like a pendulum. It was an earthquake.

Las Vegas is in the western state of Nevada, which is right next to California. The epicenter was actually in California, but we still felt it over 100 miles away.

Earthquakes occur when plates in the earth's crust rub together. This friction causes the surface to shift back and forth. It also makes huge cracks in the ground, sometimes miles long and several feet deep.

Luckily, that summer in Las Vegas, my family got out of the building safely. I was never so scared in all my life. Others in history have not been so fortunate. On Jan. 17, 1995, an earthquake struck in Kobe, Japan. It caused over 6,000 deaths. In 1906, a huge earthquake hit San Francisco, killing over 3,000 people and destroying over 25,000 buildings.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the text, what happens to plates in the earth's crust when earthquakes occur?

- A. The plates shake and sway.
- B. The plates travel to Las Vegas.
- C. The plates rub together.
- D. The plates strike a place.

2. A problem in this text is being on a top floor of a high-rise building during an earthquake. What is the solution for this problem?

- A. Plates in the earth's crust rub together.
- B. Try to get out of the building safely.
- C. Buildings can be destroyed, and people can die.
- D. Study earthquakes in foreign countries.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

Las Vegas is in the western state of Nevada, which is right next to California. The epicenter was actually in California, but we still felt it over 100 miles away.

Based on this information, what can you conclude about earthquakes?

- A. People who are located 200 miles away from the epicenter of an earthquake won't feel it.
- B. Usually you cannot feel an earthquake if you are in the same area where it started.
- C. You may be able to still feel an earthquake even if you are not in the same area where it started.
- D. Every earthquake you can feel in Nevada has an epicenter in California.

4. What can be inferred from this text?

- A. Earthquakes are predictable.
- B. Earthquakes are unpredictable.
- C. It's safe to be in an earthquake.
- D. People always die in earthquakes.

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. earthquakes and the author's experience with one
- B. how scientists can predict the next earthquake
- C. the difference between earthquakes in Japan and America
- D. safety steps you can take during an earthquake

6. Read this sentence from the text.

Earthquakes **occur** when plates in the earth's crust rub together.

As used in the sentence, what does the word "occur" most nearly mean?

- A. stop
- B. predict
- C. finish
- D. happen

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

There isn't much warning when an earthquake might occur, _____ they are very scary and surprising.

- A. such as
- B. so
- C. yet
- D. but

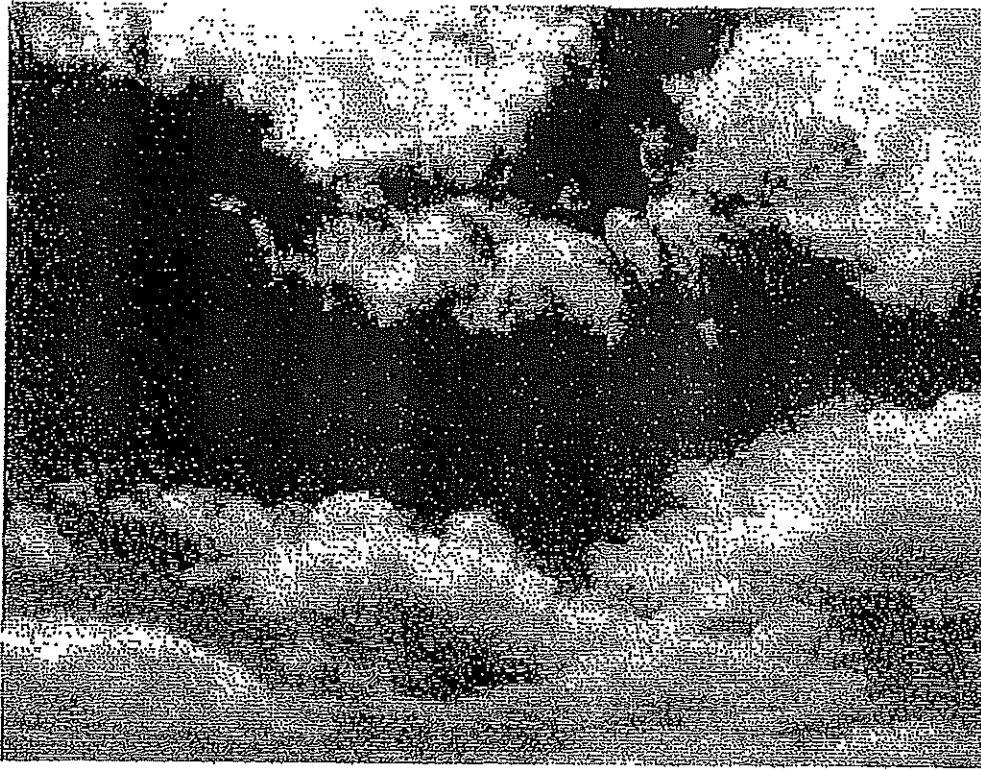
8. According to the text, what causes an earthquake to happen?

9. Based on the text, why might being high up in a building be dangerous during an earthquake? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Day 4
2 Paragraphs
Use RACE

Earth Science - The Weather

by ReadWorks



Day 5

Weather is made up of several different components. In order to understand weather, you must understand air temperature, clouds, wind, and precipitation (rain and snow). Weather is never exactly the same everywhere. It is always changing, and depending on what climate you live in, weather can change drastically from mile to mile.

The United States uses the Fahrenheit scale to measure air temperature. When the temperature rises on the Fahrenheit scale, it shows that the temperature is hotter. When the temperature goes down, it means that it is getting cooler.

Low-pressure systems are associated with clouds and precipitation, while high-pressure systems are normally associated with dry weather and mostly clear skies. Clouds are made up of millions of tiny ice crystals. Clouds high up in the sky are very cold, and look very fluffy. Lower clouds in warmer air look sharper. From clouds, we get rain and snow. Humidity is the measure of water vapor in the air. On a beautiful day, there is low humidity. On a foggy day there is high humidity. On a rainy day there is 100% humidity.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the text, what does the United States use the Fahrenheit scale to measure?

- A. air temperature
- B. low-pressure systems
- C. high-pressure systems
- D. humidity

Day 6

2. How is the text organized?

- A. There are descriptions of how each weather component works, and then the author introduces all of the weather components.
- B. Weather components are first listed, and then only a few of these components are explained.
- C. Weather components are listed, and then the author explains how they all work at the same time.
- D. The author only describes the weather and how it impacts the land.

3. The nature of weather means that in one city it could be raining and the town next to it could be sunny.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. "On a beautiful day, there is low humidity. On a foggy day there is high humidity. On a rainy day there is 100% humidity."
- B. "When the temperature rises on the Fahrenheit scale, it shows that the temperature is hotter."
- C. "It is always changing, and depending on what climate you live in, weather can change drastically from mile to mile."
- D. "Low-pressure systems are associated with clouds and precipitation, while high-pressure systems are normally associated with dry weather and mostly clear skies."

4. Based on the text, what might be the humidity on a very foggy day?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 20%
- D. 80%

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. why places are sunny all the time
- B. weather and some of its different components
- C. why places can change weather quickly
- D. how Fahrenheit and Celsius work

Day 7

6. Read this sentence from the text.

Low-pressure systems are **associated** with clouds and precipitation, while high-pressure systems are normally **associated** with dry weather and mostly clear skies.

As used in the text, what does the word "associated" most nearly mean?

- A. linked with
- B. free from
- C. broken with
- D. unlinked

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Humidity is the measure of water vapor in the air, _____ on a rainy day there is 100% humidity.

- A. for
- B. so
- C. yet
- D. but

8. Use details from the text to describe clouds.

9. If there was a high-pressure system in your area and a bunch of clouds were blown in from a different direction, how would the pressure and humidity in your area likely change? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Day 8

A Ride in Space

by Kate Paixão (Adapted by ReadWorks)



Day 9

Sally Ride always loved science and sports. She had thought about becoming a tennis player. But she loved science more than tennis. So she studied physics in college. Physics is a kind of science.

In 1978, Sally saw a newspaper ad for an exciting job. The job was working for NASA as an astronaut. NASA is in charge of the United States' space program. People working there study space. Eight thousand people tried to get the job, but only 25 did. Sally was one of them.

At NASA, Sally helped make a robotic arm to use in space. In 1983, she went on her first trip to space. To get there, she flew on a shuttle. This was dangerous and hard to do. Flying into space took courage. Sally was brave to do it. Even though it was dangerous, when Sally came back from her trip, she said, "It was the most fun I'll ever have in my life." She was the first American woman to go to space.

In 1987, Sally left her job at NASA to teach science. Later, she started her

own company called Sally Ride Science. She wanted to get girls and boys excited about becoming scientists. She wanted to inspire them to study science.

By studying science and inspiring others to study it too, Sally showed dedication to science. Sally Ride's courage and dedication to science inspired people around the world.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What job did Sally Ride see an ad in the newspaper for?

- A. teacher
- B. scientist
- C. astronaut

Day 10

2. The article describes a sequence of events in the life of Sally Ride. Which event happens last?

- A. Sally Ride helps develop a robotic arm to use in space.
- B. Sally Ride becomes the first American woman to travel in space.
- C. Sally Ride starts her own company.

3. Sally Ride always loved science.

What evidence from the article supports this statement?

- A. When Sally Ride returned to Earth from her six-day shuttle trip, she said, "It was the most fun I'll ever have in my life."
- B. Sally Ride studied physics in college and became a science teacher in 1987.
- C. In high school, Sally Ride thought about becoming a tennis player.

4. Sally Ride loved science and sports. Based on the information in the article, what else did she probably enjoy?

- A. reading
- B. writing
- C. teaching

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Sally Ride started her own company to excite boys and girls about working as scientists.
- B. Sally Ride went on her first space shuttle trip on June 18, 1983.
- C. Sally Ride's love of science led her to accomplish many things.

