

## What is an earthquake?

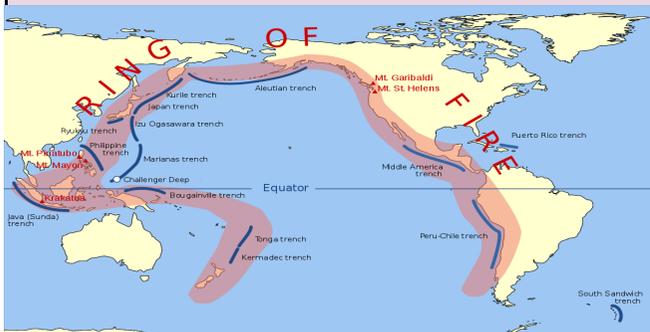
An **earthquake** is the result of a sudden release of stored energy in the Earth's crust that creates **seismic** waves. ... Earthquakes may occur naturally or as a result of human activities. Smaller earthquakes can also be caused by volcanic activity, landslides, mine blasts.

**Earthquakes** are the shaking, rolling or sudden shock of the earth's surface. They are the Earth's natural means of releasing stress. ... **Earthquakes** can be felt over large areas although they usually last less than one minute. **Earthquakes** cannot be predicted - although scientists are working on it!



## What is the Ring of Fire?

The **Ring of Fire**, also referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. ... Ninety percent of **Earth's** earthquakes occur along its path, including **the planet's** most violent and dramatic seismic events.



## What is a volcano?

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's **crust** that allows **magma**, hot ash and gases to escape. Volcanoes can look like mountains or small hills, depending on what type they are.

Magma is **molten rock** - rock that is so hot it has turned into liquid. When magma reaches the surface of the Earth it is called lava and comes out of the volcano as a volcanic eruption, along with **gases and ash**.

## Earthquakes and Volcanoes

Critical thinking:  
Our big question:

**How does the Earth shake, rattle and roll?**

## Vocabulary

<b>Active volcano</b>	A volcano that has had an eruption in the last 10,000 years, and possibly may erupt in the future
<b>Compass Point</b>	Points on a magnetic compass marking the four main directions—North, South, East, West
<b>Continent</b>	Land mass defined by physical, human, or cultural features: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America
<b>Dormant volcano</b>	A volcano that has not erupted in the last 10,000 years, but it is possible that it will erupt in the future
<b>Earthquake</b>	Movements, fractures and vibrations in the Earth's crust as tectonic plates move
<b>Extinct volcano</b>	A volcano that has not had an eruption in the last 10,000 years
<b>Lava</b>	Molten, fluid rock that is ejected from a volcano and solidifies as it cools
<b>Mountain</b>	Large landform, often with a peak, rising high above the surrounding area, higher and steeper than hill
<b>Tectonic Plate</b>	A massive slab of rock that 'floats' on top of the mantle (and inner layer) of the Earth