# Earthquake

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# Vocabulary

**Magnitude**: Size.

**Seismic**: Relating to earthquakes or other vibrations of the earth and its crust.

**Temblor**: An earthquake.

**Resonance**: The quality in a sound of being deep, full, and reverberating.

**Epicenter**: the point on the earth's surface directly above the origin of an earthquake

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# Introduction

Earthquakes occur as a result of masses of rock changing position below the earth's surface. This type of activity goes on continuously. Often, the shock waves that result are not powerful enough to be felt at the earth's surface, but they can be detected and recorded by a **seismograph**. "Earthquakes are among the most destructive and powerful forces of nature," notes The World Book Encyclopedia. That statement is no exaggeration, for the energy released by a severe quake may be 10,000 times greater than that generated by the first atom bomb.

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