

Geographical Eye: Disasters

Programme 1: Earthquakes

Activity 1 worksheet: The Richter Scale

You have probably come across the Richter Scale – it is used for measuring the strength of earthquakes. Use the website:

http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Glossary/Seismicity/description_richter.html to see what all the numbers mean on the Richter Scale. Write down what numbers 4, 6 and 8 stand for:

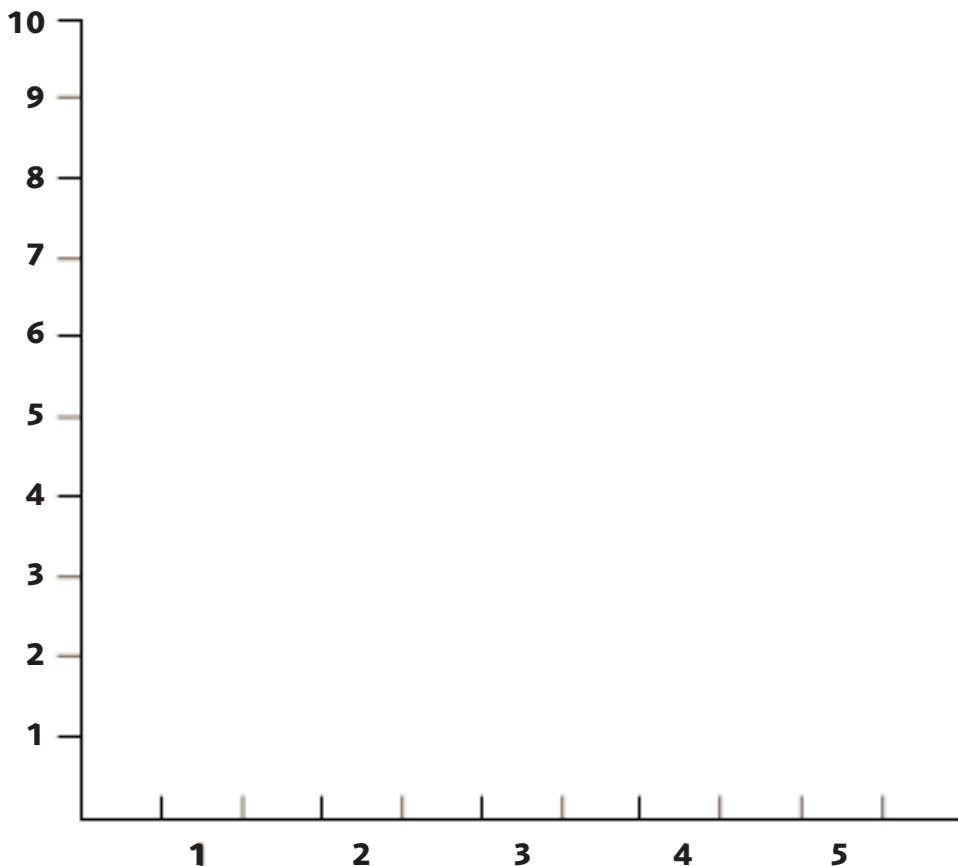
Richter Scale 4 means: _____

Richter Scale 6 means: _____

Richter Scale 8 means: _____

Make a list of all the earthquakes mentioned in the programme and display them as a bar chart on the Richter Scale graph below. (Write the name of each one under the numbers 1-5.)

Richter Scale Graph



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Activity 2 worksheet: Fire and Earthquakes

Sometimes fires started by the earthquakes do more damage than the violent shaking of the ground. Describe three ways that an earthquake can start fires.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Look at the information on the video and in the Net Notes about these earthquakes and fill in the grid below:

Earthquake	Number on Richter Scale	Damage done by fire
California 1906		
California 1987		
Tokyo 1923		
Kobe 1995		
Maharashtra 1993		

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Activity 4 worksheet: The Earthquake Protection Experts

Imagine that you come from California and run an engineering firm, 'Quakebuster'. It advises on house construction, protection for gas, electricity and water supplies and so on, and offers earthquake prediction and protection services.

The Governor of Maharashtra District in India has called you in to help redesign the town to avoid a repeat of the 1993 disaster. Put a report together using these headings:

How bad is the problem?

What can we offer?

Costs: What can you afford?

Our recommendations