

Spring 1

Lostwithiel Primary School

Year 3

'Where and why do earthquakes happen?'

Geography Knowledge Organiser

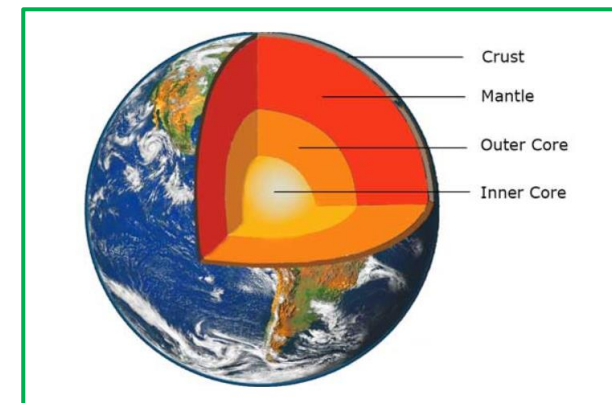
Beech Tree Class

Prior Learning:

- Children will have some understanding of physical features of the Earth through previous study

Key Geographical Knowledge:

- The earth is made up of four layers: core, inner mantle, outer mantle and the crust.
- The crust of the earth is made of huge slabs of rocks called tectonic plates.
- Tectonic plate movement causes different types of mountains to form.
- Pressure arising from heat and movement at tectonic plate boundaries causes volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.
- Some continents, countries and cities are located close to tectonic plate boundaries.
- These countries are more likely to suffer from natural disasters such as earthquakes.
- South America is a continent with its West coast on a plate boundary.
- South America is made up of 13 different countries.
- The biggest recorded earthquake in South America (and the world) was in Chile in 1960 with a magnitude of 9.5
- The biggest recorded earthquake in the UK was at Dogger Bank in 1931 with a magnitude of 6.1



Key Geographical Vocabulary

tectonic plate	A large piece of rock covering part of the earth to form a crust. There are 7 major tectonic plates.
volcano	A type of mountain that erupts to release magma forced up from below the ground.
earthquake	When the earth moves, shakes or cracks because of tectonic plate movement below the ground.
tsunami	A huge wave that can destroy buildings on the coastline. Tsunamis are caused by underwater earthquakes.
natural disaster	When a natural event such as an earthquake, volcano or tsunami causes great damage or loss of life.
boundary	The place where two tectonic plates meet.
Richter scale	The scale used to measure the effects of an earthquake. It was invented by Charles F. Richter in 1935.
magnitude	The name for the power of an earthquake. The magnitude range on the Richter scale is 0 to 10.

Key Geographical Skills

- ✓ Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries
- ✓ Describe the physical features studied

Cross curricular links:

English: volcanic eruption explanation

Science: rocks and soils

History: mining history of Cornwall

Art: volcano models and drawings of the earth's layers

DT: designing and making cable cars to travel up mountains

Computing: internet research and using Google earth

Linked documents: Class Overview, Geography Whole School Progression document and Class Medium Term Planning.