

World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Release week Oct. 4, 2009: Earthquakes

Standards

- *Current Events*: Students will read reports about earthquakes and other natural disasters.
- *Science*: Students will demonstrate plate movement with models.
- *Science*: Students will make a working model of a seismograph.

Activities

1. *Use the News*: Earthquakes are just one example of a natural disaster. Others include hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, drought, etc. What natural disasters are reported in the newspaper? If none are currently in the news, you can research newspaper archives to find reports of past earthquake events.
2. Create models to demonstrate how plates and continents move on our planet. For example, make cutouts of the continents from a world-map photocopy. First, place them in their current positions on the Earth. Then try sliding them together to see if they form the scientist's idea of what Pangaea might have looked like. Another example: Use magazines or sheets of foam rubber to represent geographic plates. Slide them together or away from each other to show the four different types of plate movement.
3. How does a seismometer/seismograph work? Try making your own. Here are two Web sites with clear directions:
<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/seismometer.html>,
<http://cse.ssl.berkeley.edu/lessons/indiv/davis/hs/Seismograph.html>.

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for Grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade level.