

Special News for Special Kids

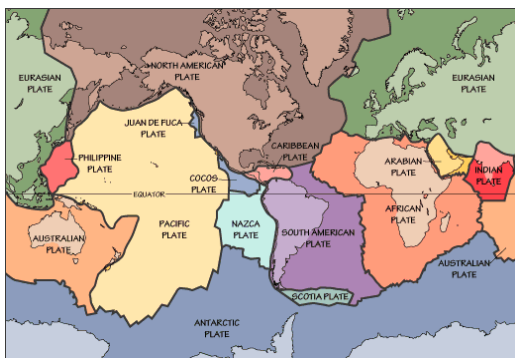


EARTHQUAKES

Word Bank (key words or concepts from this article to practice and discuss with your child):

1. Earthquake
2. Tectonic Plates
3. Fault/Fault line
4. The recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile

Earthquakes have been in the news a lot recently. Earthquakes can do a lot of damage as the two latest ones in Haiti and in Chile did. When this happens it is very sad. People get hurt or even die, and even those who don't lose their houses. Important buildings and structures are also destroyed, such as those that provide fresh water to drink. But what is an Earthquake exactly? Our planet is made up of many layers. We live on top of pieces of land called Tectonic Plates. This is different than continents, although some of the borders are the same. Even under the oceans there is land that is part of these plates. Here is a map of the world that looks different from the ones you are used to seeing; this one shows all the Earth's Tectonic Plates:



The place where two plates meet is called a Fault, or Fault line. The plates are moving all the time. When two plates move against each other at a Fault, an earthquake happens. Sometimes earthquakes are so small that no one even knows it happened. But once in a while, two plates bump into each other or scrape against each other with a lot of force, and this results in big earthquakes like the ones in Haiti and Chile. Scientists have ways of measuring the movement of the plates and can sometimes even predict when an earthquake is coming.

Here is a link to a picture of the different layers of the Earth that you can color. Ask your mom, dad, or therapist for help if you need it!

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/coloring/earthlayers.gif>