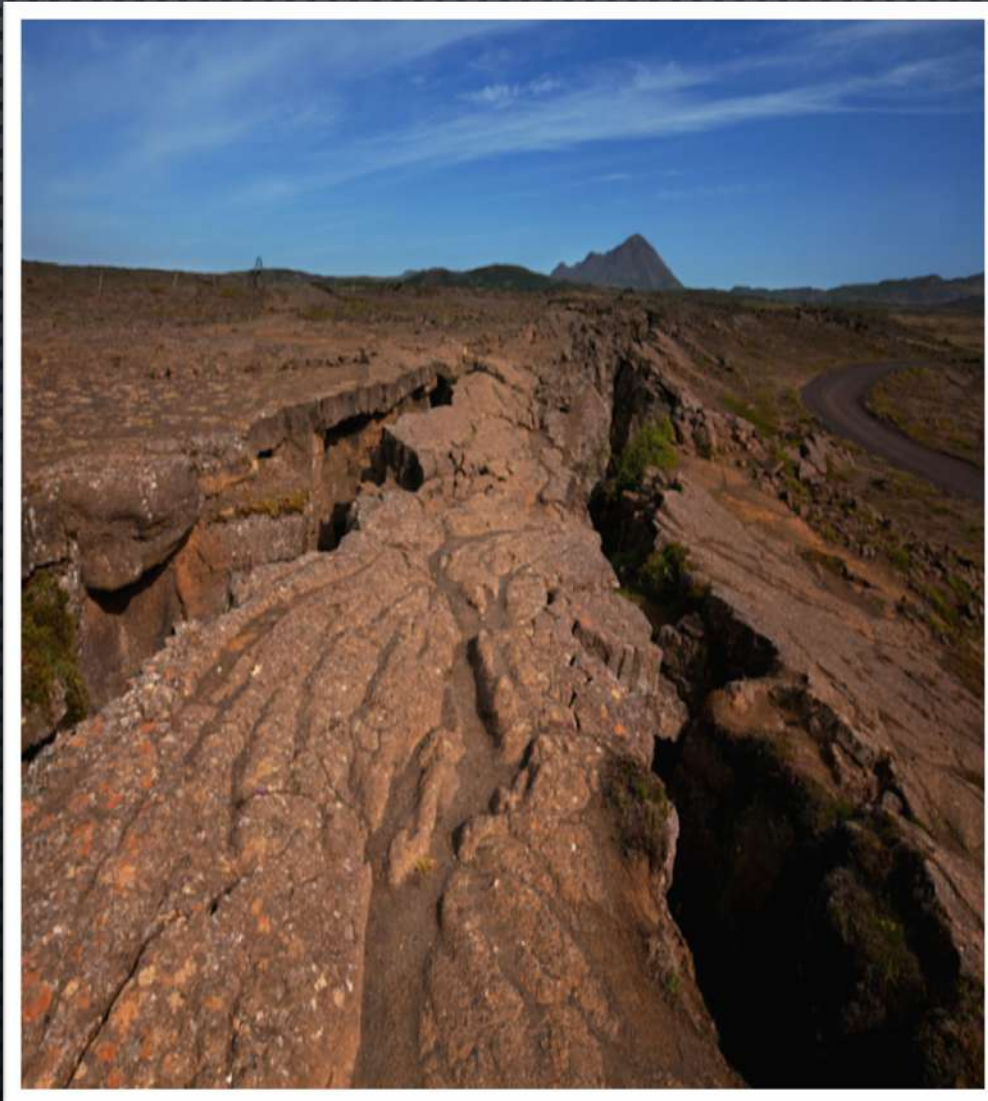


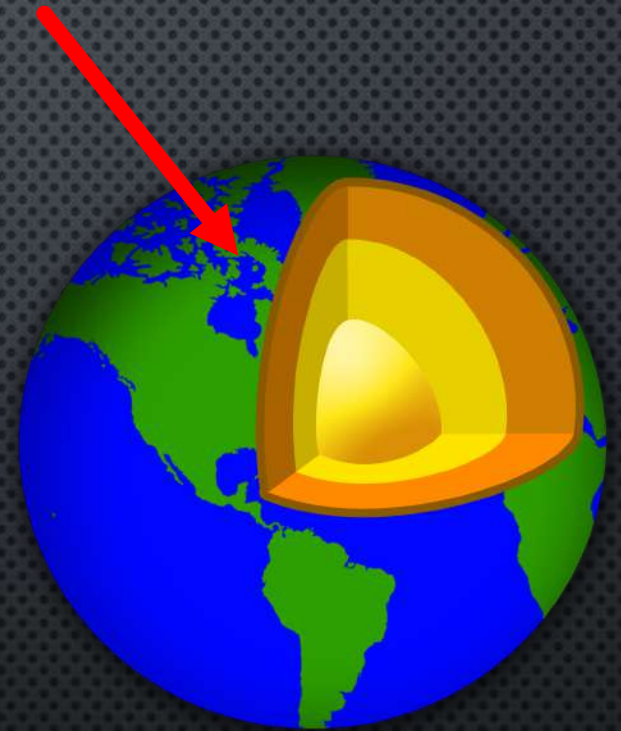
# EARTHQUAKES



# What is an earthquake?

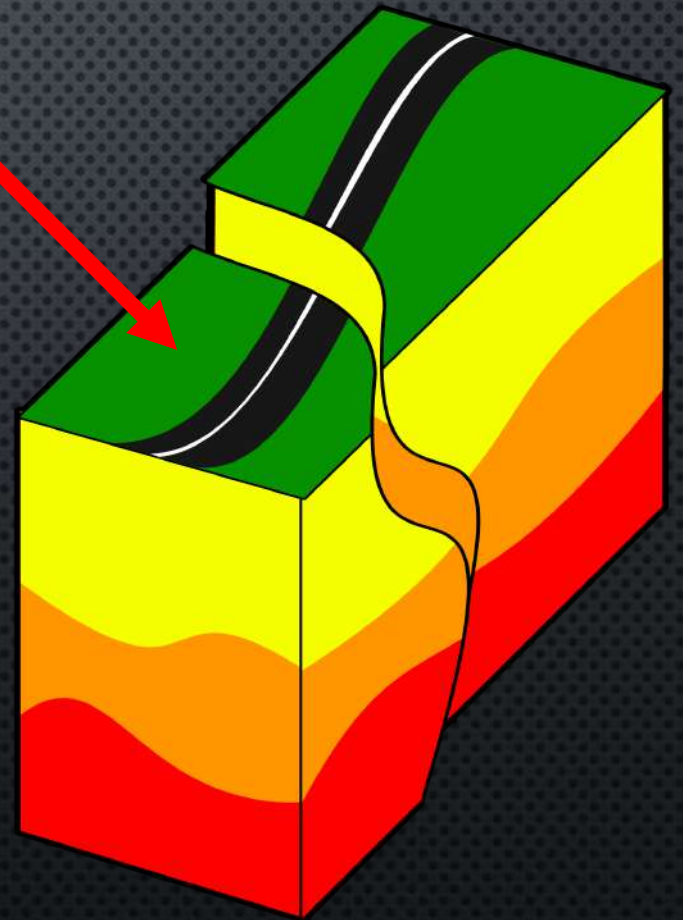
An earthquake is a rumbling and shaking of the Earth's **crust**.

The crust is another word for the Earth's surface. The land that we live on is part of the Earth's crust.



# Causes

- The earth's crust is made up of large pieces of land, called **tectonic plates**.
- Sometimes, these plates move and bump into each other.
- This movement causes the Earth to shake, or even pieces of land to crack.



# Destruction

Earthquakes can be different. Sometimes, they cause a small rumble, and other times they are so powerful that they move the land.



## This can cause:

- Buildings, homes, and trees to fall.
- Windows can shatter.
- Fires can start.

# Characteristics

- Very powerful
- Moving, shaking or rumbling land
- Destructive



# What else can earthquakes cause?

Earthquakes that are very powerful can also lead to other natural disasters.

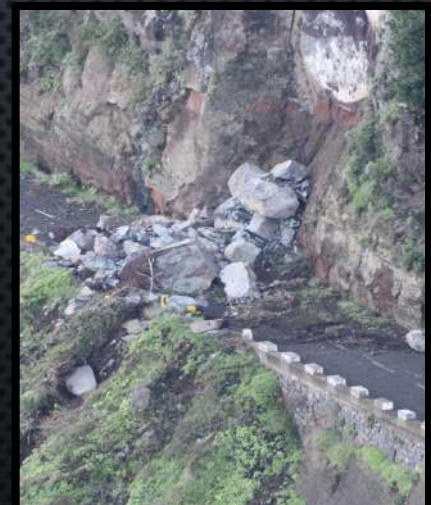
The shaking and movement of the land can cause:



Tsunamis



Landslides



Flooding

# Interesting Facts

- Earthquakes cannot be predicted.
- About one million happen around the world each year.
- Earthquakes usually last for one minute or less.
- They can lead to other natural disasters, like tsunamis, landslides and floods.

