# Y9 MID-TERM GEOGRAPHY REVISION GUIDE

Exam Date: November 2024

New York Cimes

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# THE REVISION GUIDE

This revision guide is aimed to **support** the work you have completed with your teacher in your **OneNote** this year. Use it thoroughly alongside your OneNote to prepare for your upcoming November exam. The guide is split into the following sections:

- Structure of the Earth
- B: The Distribution of Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- C: Plate Boundaries
- D: Volcanoes
- E: Earthquakes
- F: Haiti, 2010 Earthquake Case Study
- G: Sample Exam Questions
- H: Keywords



Standard Geography Revision Guide

Fairbank's Geography **Revision Guide** 

# THE EXAM: WHAT TO EXPECT

#### Style of questions:

The exam will consist of a series of short response questions and one extended response question (7-mark case study required).. Below are some sample answers and examiners comments. It is very important that you remember to BUG every question and really focus on the command word, so you know what the examiner wants you to write. Have a look at the table below to remind yourself of the command words to expect then read the sample answers and comments.

#### TYPICAL EXAM COMMAND TERMS:

ANALYSE: Separate information and discuss its parts.

COMPARE: Describe the similarities and differences of at least two things.

DEFINE: Give the meaning of a word.

DESCRIBE: Give the main characteristics or account in words.

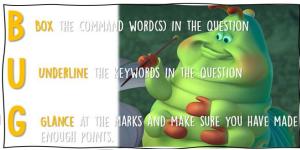
DISCUSS: Bring out the important points, consider the good/bad and conclude.

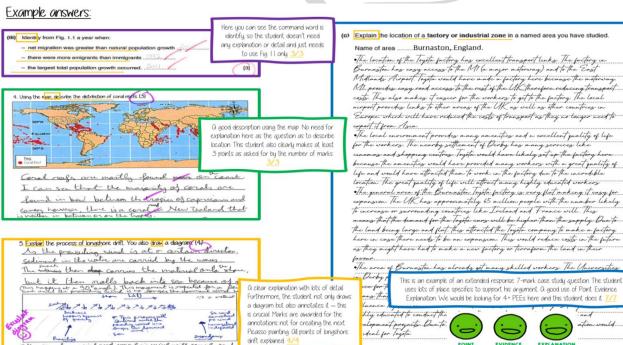
**EVALUATE:** Give an opinion by exploring the pros and cons of something.

**EXPLAIN:** give reasons on why or how something happens.

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**IDENTIFY**: give an example



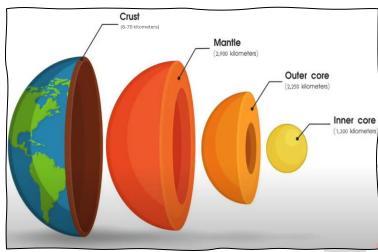


Picasso painting Oil points of longshore

# A: THE STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH

#### The Structure of The Earth:

Understanding the structure of the Earth is essential for grasping tectonics. The Earth is made up of four main layers: the **crust**, **mantle**, **outer core**, and **inner core**. The crust is the outermost layer where we live, and it's broken into plates that float on the semi-fluid mantle beneath. Beneath the mantle, the outer core is liquid, and the inner core is solid due to immense pressure.



Can you identify the layers and describe characteristics of the Earth?

I.The Inner core is in the centre and is the hottest part of the Earth. It is solid and made up of iron and nickel with temperatures of up to 5,500°C.

2.The Outer core is the layer surrounding the inner core. It is a liquid layer, also made up of iron and nickel.

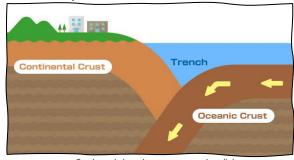
3. The Mantle is the thickest section of the Earth at approximately 2,900 km. The mantle is made up of semi-molten rock called magma.

**4.The Crust** The outermost layer, divided into tectonic plates. It's thin, with oceanic crust about 5 km thick and continental crust up to 70 km thick.

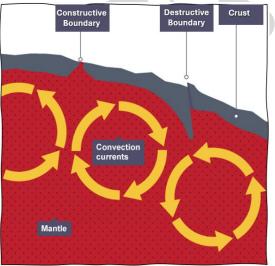
# Two Types of Tectonic Plates

The Earth's crust is divided into many tectonic plates moving in various directions due to the mantle forces (we will learn about this below). There are two main types of tectonic plates:

- Continental plates, which are thicker and less dense, forming landmasses.
- 2. Oceanic plates, which are thinner and denser, found beneath oceans. These differences lead to unique interactions at plate boundaries, influencing tectonic activity



Continental and oceanic crust colliding.



Convection currents in the mantle

# Why do Tectonic Plates Move?

## I. Convection Currents:

Convection currents are movements within the Earth's mantle driven by heat from the core. The core heats the lower mantle, causing it to become less dense and rise toward the crust. As it cools, it becomes denser and sinks

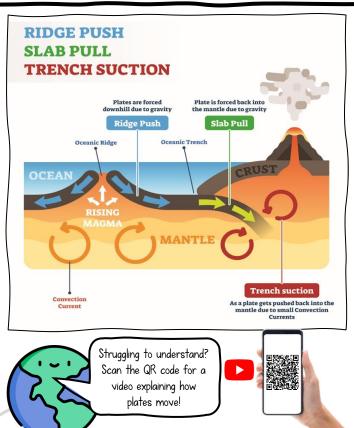
back down, creating a continuous cycle. These currents exert drag on tectonic plates, facilitating their movement and resulting in various interactions at constructive, destructive, and conservative boundaries.

## 2. Slab Pull

Slab pull is the force generated by a sinking tectonic plate at a subduction zone. When a denser oceanic plate collides with another plate, it is forced down into the mantle. The weight of this subducting plate pulls the rest of the plate along with it, driving its movement away from mid-ocean ridges and toward subduction zones, where it recycles back into the mantle.

# 3. Ridge Push

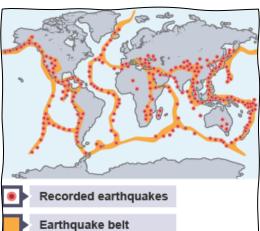
Ridge push is the force that drives tectonic plates away from mid-ocean ridges. As magma rises and creates new oceanic crust, the cooling crust becomes denser and slides away due to gravity. The elevated position of the ridge compared to the surrounding ocean floor creates a slope, facilitating this movement. Ridge push contributes to the ongoing formation of new ocean floor and overall plate dynamics.

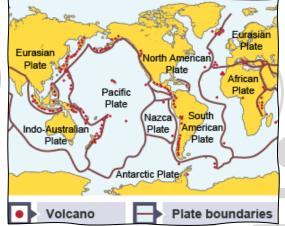


# **B: THE DISTRIBUTION OF EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES**

As can be seen from the map, earthquakes can be found:

- •Concentrated Along Plate Boundaries: Most earthquakes occur at the edges of tectonic plates, where they interact with each other.
- •Linear Patterns: Earthquakes often follow linear patterns, forming along constructive, destructive, and conservative plate boundaries.
- •Ring of Fire: A significant concentration of earthquakes is found in the Pacific Ring of Fire, a horseshoe-shaped area known for its high seismic activity and numerous volcanoes.





EXAMFOCUS:

IGCSE questions often
ask students to
describe the distribution
of tectonic hazards.
Remember to follow
the TEA rule when
doing so!

Volcanoes are also mainly formed at plate boundaries. There are some important exceptions. e.g., the Hawaiian Islands, which are entirely volcanic in origin, formed in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, more than 3,200km from the nearest plate boundary.

This is explained by the 'hotspot' theory, that there are fixed spots in the mantle where magma rises to the surface. As the crust moves over these fixed spots, volcanoes are created, eventually forming a chain of volcanoes.

# C: PLATE BOUNDARIES

# Types of Plate Boundaries:

There are a four different types of plate boundary that you need to be familiar with. Make sure you can

explain what happens at each boundary confidently and in detail!

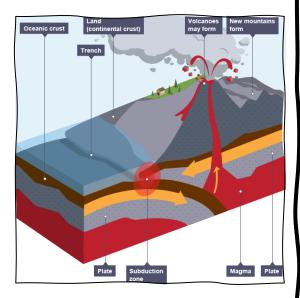
## 1. Destructive Plate Boundaries:

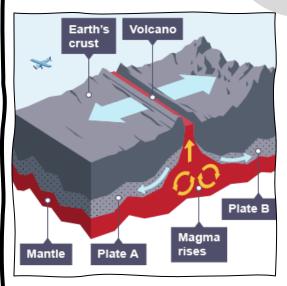
As the plates **collide**, the oceanic plate is forced beneath the continental plate. This is known as **subduction**. This happens because the oceanic plate is **denser** than the continental plate.

When the plate sinks into the mantle it melts to form magma. The pressure of the magma builds up beneath the Earth's surface. The magma escapes through weaknesses in the rock and rises up through a composite volcano. The volcanic eruptions are often violent, with lots of steam, gas and ash.

Earthquakes occur due to the intense pressure that builds when an oceanic plate is forced beneath a continental plate during subduction. The friction locks the plates together, and when the stress exceeds this friction, the plates suddenly slip, releasing energy as seismic waves.







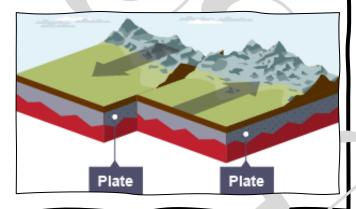
## 2. Constructive Plate Boundaries:

Constructive boundaries occur where tectonic plates move apart from each other, allowing magma to rise from the mantle to fill the gap and construct new crust. Stress builds from this movement, and when it is released, shallow earthquakes occur.

Earthquakes at these boundaries tend to be less powerful, resulting from the fracturing of rock as the plates separate. Shield volcanoes, which have gentle slopes and are formed from large volumes of low-viscosity lava flows, are common at divergent boundaries.

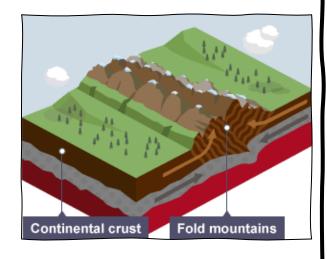
# 3. Conservative Plate Boundaries:

Two tectonic plates slide past each other horizontally, leading to a build-up of friction and stress. When this stress is released, it can generate significant earthquakes, which are often intense and occur at shallow depths. Unlike other boundary types, there are typically no volcanoes associated with transform boundaries due to the absence of magma generation.



#### 4. Collision Plate Boundaries:

Collision boundaries occur when two continental plates collide, causing the crust to crumple and fold, which can lead to the formation of fold mountain ranges. The earthquakes generated at these boundaries can be intense and shallow, resulting from the significant pressure exerted by the colliding plates. Unlike other boundaries, there are few to no active volcanoes at collision boundaries since both plates are too buoyant to subduct easily.





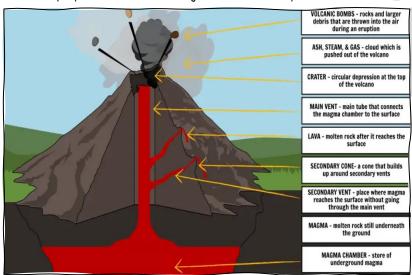


BOUNDARY TYPE	EARTHQUAKES	VOLCANOES	PROCESSES
I. Destructive	Powerful, deep earthquakes	Composite Volcanoes	Subduction, crust destruction
2. Constructive	Frequent, shallow earthquakes	Shield Volcanoes	Magma rises, new crust formation
3. Conservative	Intense, shallow earthquakes	None	Plates slide past each other
4. Collision	Intense, shallow earthquakes	Few to none	Crust crumples, mountain building

# D: VOLCANOES

#### Features of a Volcano

Volcanoes are geological formations created by the movement of molten rock (magma) from the Earth's interior to the surface. They occur when pressure builds up from gases and magma within the Earth, leading to eruptions. Volcanoes can vary in shape, size, and eruption style, ranging from gentle lava flows to explosive eruptions that can propel ash and debris high into the atmosphere.













## Types of Volcano

There are three main types of volcano: **Shield, Composite**, and **Cinder Cone** Volcanoes. You need to be able to describe the differences between the **two** most common - **Shield** and **Composite**.

## Composite Volcanoes

- ☐ Shape: Steep, conical shape with a pointed summit.
  - **Composition**: Made up of alternating layers of solidified lava flows, ash, and volcanic rocks.
- ☐ Eruption Style: Characterized by explosive eruptions due to the high viscosity of magma, which traps gases.
- Lava Type: Typically composed of andesitic or rhyolitic lava, which is more viscous than basaltic lava
- Examples: Mount St. Helens (USA), Mount Fuji (Japan), and Mount Vesuvius (Italy).
- ☐ Hazards: Can produce pyroclastic flows, ash clouds, and lahars.





Erta Ale is an active shield volcano in the Afar Region of Ethiopia.

#### Shield Volcanoes

- Shape: Broad, gently sloping sides resembling a warrior's shield.
- Composition: Built primarily from low-viscosity basaltic lava that can flow over long distances.
  - **Eruption Style:** Generally characterized by non-explosive eruptions, resulting in lava flows rather than explosive activity.
- Lava Type: Composed mainly of basaltic lava, which is fluid and allows gases to escape easily.
- Examples: Mauna Loa (Hawaii), Kilauea (Hawaii), and Olympus Mons (Mars).
- ☐ Hazards: While less explosive, can still produce lava flows that threaten nearby areas, as well as volcanic gases.

#### Volcanic Hazards

The most extreme hazards associated with volcanoes include pyroclastic flows, which can travel at high speeds and reach extremely high temperatures, and lahars, which are destructive volcanic mudflows that can occur suddenly and devastate surrounding areas.





# Why do people live in areas of volcanic activity?

Living near volcanoes may seem risky due to the potential for eruptions and associated hazards, yet many people choose to inhabit these regions. The unique geological features and fertile landscapes created by volcanic activity offer numerous benefits that can outweigh the dangers. Below are some reasons why:







- •Fertile Soil: Volcanic ash enriches the soil, making it highly fertile and ideal for agriculture.
- •Geothermal Energy: Volcanic regions provide access to geothermal energy, a renewable energy source for heating and electricity.
- •Mineral Resources: Volcanoes can be rich in valuable minerals, such as sulfur, gold, and other ores, supporting mining industries.
- •Tourism Opportunities: Active and dormant volcanoes attract tourists for activities like hiking, sightseeing, and cultural experiences, boosting local economies.
- •Natural Hot Springs: Volcanic activity creates hot springs, which are popular for recreation and therapeutic benefits.
- Employment Opportunities: Industries related to agriculture, tourism, and geothermal energy provide jobs and economic growth in volcanic areas.
- •Community Resilience: Many communities have developed disaster preparedness plans and awareness of volcanic risks, making them more resilient to eruptions.
- •Cultural Significance: Volcanoes often hold cultural and historical importance for local communities, forming a part of their identity and heritage.
- •Scenic Beauty: Volcanic landscapes offer stunning views and unique geological features, enhancing the quality of life for residents.

What scale are volcanic eruptions measured on? Volcanic eruptions are measured on several scales, each serving a different purpose. The most used scale is the Volcanic Explosivity Index.

Scale Range: 0 to 8

**Purpose**: The VEI measures the explosiveness of volcanic eruptions based on criteria such as eruption height, volume of ejected material, and duration.

**VEI 0**: Non-explosive eruptions (e.g., Hawaiian eruptions)

VEI 1-2: Gentle to moderate eruptions (e.g., small lava flows)

**VEI 3-4**: Explosive eruptions that can impact nearby areas (e.g., Plinian eruptions)

VEI 5-8: Major to colossal eruptions with global implications (e.g., super-eruptions)



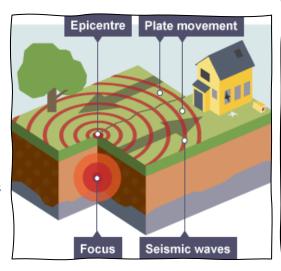




# **E: EARTHQUAKES**

# What are earthquakes?

Earthquakes are the sudden violent shaking of the ground. This happens because the Earth's plates are constantly moving. Sometimes because of **friction**, plates try to move but become **stuck**. **Pressure** builds up because the plates are still trying to move. When the pressure is released it sends out huge amounts of energy causing the Earth's surface to shake violently. The point inside the Earth's crust where the earthquake originates from is known as the **focus**. The earthquake's energy is released in **seismic** waves, which spread out from the focus. The seismic waves are most powerful at the . The **epicentre** is the point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus.



DID YOU KNOW? The 1960

Valdivia Earthquake in Chile had a

magnitude of 9.5, the largest ever recorded.

# Measuring Earthquakes:

The Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw) is the standard for measuring earthquakes, replacing the older *Richter Scale*. It measures the total energy released by an earthquake, considering the fault's size, the movement along it, and the strength of the rocks involved.

# Earthquake Magnitude Scale:

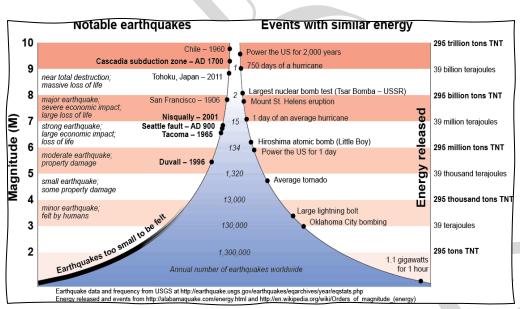
- •Small earthquakes: Magnitude 2-3 (often not felt).
- Moderate earthquakes: Magnitude 4-5 (felt by most people, may cause minor damage).
- Large earthquakes: Magnitude 6-7 (causes significant damage, shaking over a wide area).
- Major earthquakes: Magnitude 7-8 (widespread destruction).
- •Great earthquakes: Magnitude 8+ (massive energy release, catastrophic damage).

# Largest Recorded Earthquake:

Earthquakes are measured using instruments called seismographs, which detect seismic waves and produce a visual record called a seismogram. This helps scientists determine the earthquake's magnitude, location, and depth. Seismographs are essential tools in understanding and measuring the energy released during an earthquake.

# A LOGARITHMIC SCALE A magnitude 5 earthquake has 10 times the wave amplitude of a magnitude 4 earthquake. However, in terms of energy, a magnitude 5 earthquake releases 32 times more energy than a magnitude 4 earthquake.

TECTONIC RELATIONSHIPS



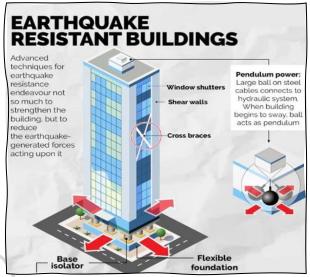
# Reducing vulnerability in earthquake active regions Prediction

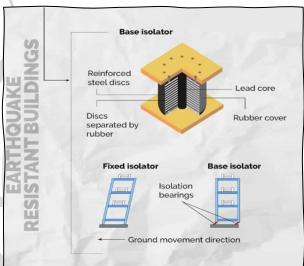
Prediction involves using seismometers to monitor earth tremors. Experts know where earthquakes are likely to happen, however it's very difficult to predict when they will happen. Even looking at the time between earthquakes doesn't seem to work. Along the San Andreas fault in California, USA, scientists have some of the most advanced technical equipment and education in predicting earthquakes – but they too cannot be exactly sure of when or where an earthquake may strike.

#### Protection

Many areas prone to earthquake hazards now use building codes. Any new building or adjustment to existing buildings must be built to strict guidelines that would protect people from future earthquake hazards. Protection involves constructing buildings so that they are safe to live in and will not collapse. Some examples of building improvements are:

- Rubber shock absorbers in the foundations to absorb the earth tremors.
- Steel frames that can sway during earth movements.
- Open areas outside of the buildings where people can assemble during an evacuation.
- Evacuation drills and evacuation routes
- Flexible wires and pipes to prevent leaks and fires.
- Low-cost methods, such as wire mesh retrofitting are used in rural areas and developing countries.
   These are affordable and appropriate to the resources and people living there.
- Lightweight roofs and safety shatterproof glass designed to reduce damage and injury.







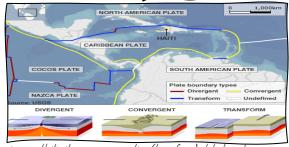


DID YOUKNOW? In the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake (magnitude 9.0), Japan experienced approximately 18,500 fatalities, thanks to its strict building codes and advanced engineering practices, including earthquake-resistant designs. In contrast, the 2010 Haiti earthquake (magnitude 7.0) resulted in an estimated 230,000 to 316,000 deaths due to poorly constructed buildings and a lack of enforced building regulations.

This stark difference underscores the critical role of effective building standards in reducing casualties during seismic events.

# F: EARTHQUAKES: CAUSE, IMPACT, RESPONSE

The 2010 Haiti earthquake struck on January 12, at 4:53 PM local time. With a magnitude of 7.0, the quake was centered near the town of Léogâne, approximately 25 kilometers (16 miles) west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. This devastating event resulted in catastrophic destruction, leading to a humanitarian crisis and highlighting the challenges faced by a nation already struggling with poverty and weak infrastructure.



Haiti sits on a conservative (transform) plate boundary

## **EXAMFOCUS:**

Can you categorise the impacts into **SEE**?







	PRIMARY (caused directly by the earthquake)	SECONDARY (result from primary effects)
	316,000 people were killed, and I million people were made homeless. 3 million people were affected by the earthquake	I in 5 people lost their jobs because so many buildings were destroyed. Haiti's largest industry, clothing was one of the worst affected
(	250,000 homes and 30,000 other buildings, including the President's Palace and 60% of government buildings, were either destroyed or badly damaged	The large number of deaths meant that hospitals and morgues became full, and bodies then had to be piled up on the streets
Ī	Transport and communication links were also badly damaged by the earthquake	The large number of bodies meant that diseases, especially cholera, became a serious problem
	Hospitals (50+) and schools (1,300+) were badly damaged, as was the airport's control tower	It was difficult getting aid into the area because of the destruction at the airport and destruction of the port leaving Haiti isolated.
	The main prison was destroyed, and 4,000 inmates escaped.	People were crammed into shanty towns or onto the streets because their homes had been destroyed leading to poor sanitation and health, and looting became a real problem.

#### Responses to the earthquake

#### SHORT-TERMRESPONSES

#### I. International Aid:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided over \$1.1 billion in humanitarian aid, while countries around the world sent resources, personnel, and funds to assist in recovery efforts.

2. Search and Rescue Operations:

Approximately 30 international search and rescue teams were deployed to Haiti, including personnel from the United States, Canada, and Japan. These teams rescued over 130 survivors from the rubble in the days following the earthquake.

3. Shelter and Temporary Housing:

More than I.5 million people were displaced, with many seeking refuge in over I,300 temporary camps established in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. Organizations like the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies distributed tents and tarps to provide immediate shelter.

#### LONG-TERM RESPONSES

#### I.Reconstruction Efforts:

By 2014, only about 18,000 houses had been built through formal reconstruction programs. Ongoing efforts aimed to improve housing conditions and restore communities.

2.New Building Codes:

The Haitian government, with international support, began implementing new building codes focused on earthquake resilience. This included training local builders and architects to adhere to safer construction practices.

3. International Support and Funding:
Over \$13 billion was pledged for Haiti's reconstruction, with a significant portion allocated for rebuilding infrastructure, education facilities, and health services following the UN donor conference in March 2010.





#### **EXAMFOCUS:**

Can you describe the impacts and responses of the 2010 earthquake?

# **G: SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS**

1. USING FIGURE 1, DESCRIBE THE GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF EARTHQUAKES (3)



- Figure 1: Distribution of earthquake activity
- 2. EXPLAIN HOW EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES ARE CREATED AT A DESTRUCTIVE PLATE BOUNDARY. YOU MAY DRAW A DIAGRAM TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER. (4)
- 3. EXPLAIN HOW EARTHQUAKES OCCUR AT A CONSERVATIVE PLATE BOUNDARY. YOU MAY DRAW A DIAGRAM TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER. (3)
- 4. EXPLAIN WHY PEOPLE LIVE IN AREAS OF VOLCANIC ACTIVITY (5)
- 5. DESCRIBE THREE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A COMPOSITE AND A SHIELD VOLCANO (3)
- 6. DESCRIBE THE IMPACT AND RESPONSE TO AN EARTHQUAKE YOU HAVE STUDIED (7)



# H: KEYWORDS



# Being confident with your keywords and definitions is super important if you want to be a Geographical Genius!

**Magnitude**: A measure of the energy released during an earthquake, commonly measured using the Richter scale or the Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw).

Seismic Waves: Energy waves produced by an earthquake that travel through the Earth. They include primary (P) waves, secondary (S) waves, and surface waves.

Epicentre: The point on the Earth's surface directly above the location where an earthquake originates (the focus).

Focus The actual location beneath the Earth's surface where the earthquake originates.

**Tectonic Plates**: Large, rigid pieces of the Earth's lithosphere that move and interact with each other, causing earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Fault Line: A fracture or zone of weakness in the Earth's crust along which movement has occurred.

Subduction Zone: An area where one tectonic plate is being forced under another, often leading to volcanic activity and earthquakes.

Magma: Molten rock located beneath the Earth's surface. When it erupts, it is referred to as lava.

Lava: Molten rock that reaches the Earth's surface through a volcanic eruption.

**Pyroclastic Flow:** A fast-moving current of hot gas and volcanic matter that flows down the slopes of a volcano during an explosive eruption.

Tephra: Volcanic material, including ash, pumice, and rocks, ejected during a volcanic eruption.

Volcanic Ash: Fine particles of rock and glass that are expelled during an explosive volcanic eruption.

Crater: A bowl-shaped depression at the top of a volcano formed by explosive eruptions or the collapse of a volcanic cone.

Lahar: A destructive mudflow composed of volcanic ash and water, often occurring during or after an eruption.

Hotspot: A location where magma rises through the mantle to form volcanoes, independent of tectonic plate boundaries (e.g., the Hawaiian Islands).

Seismograph: An instrument used to measure and record the intensity, duration, and direction of seismic waves during an earthquake.

SHARING IS FUN!

Destructive Plate Boundary: A tectonic plate boundary where one plate is forced under another, leading to subduction, earthquakes, and volcanic Constructive Plate Boundary: A tectonic plate boundary where two plates move apart, allowing magma to rise and create new crust, often resulting in

move apart, allowing magma to rise and create new crust, often resulting in volcanic activity

Conservative Plate Boundary: A tectonic plate boundary where two plates slide past each other horizontally, causing friction and earthquakes without the creation or destruction of crust

