

How Do Seismographs Work?

Today's seismographs are complex electronic devices

Simple seismographs consists of a heavy weight attached to a frame by a wire or spring

A pen is connected to the weight that rests on a rotating drum

As drum rotates, the pen draws a straight line

Seismic waves cause the drum to vibrate, which causes the pen to record the vibrations

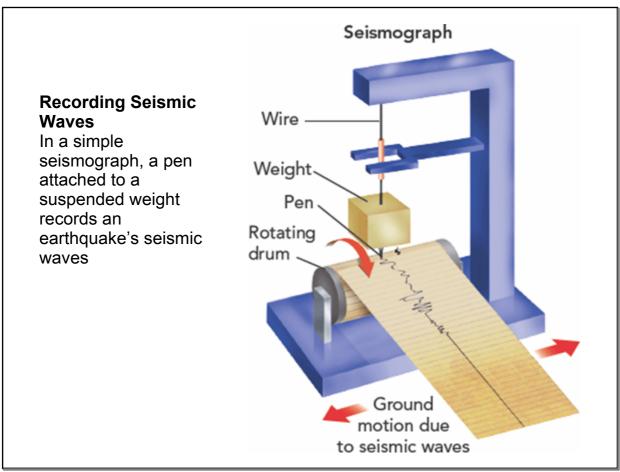
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Measuring Seismic Waves

All seismographs make use of a basic principle of physics: whether moving or at rest, every object resists any change to it motion

Seismograph's (pen) heavy weight resists motion during an earthquake

The rest of a machine is anchored and vibrates when seismic waves arrive

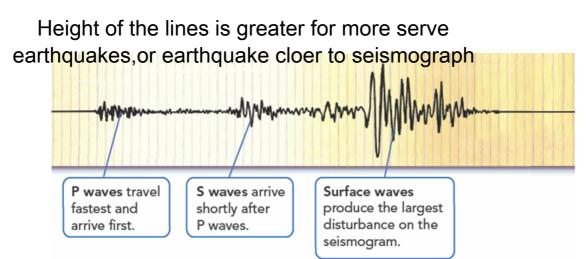


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Reading a seismogram

The pattern of lines that called a seismogram is the record of an earthquake's seismic waves

P-waves arrive first, then S-waves and then surface waves



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What Patterns Do Seismographic Data Reveal

Geologists use seismographs to monitor earthquakes

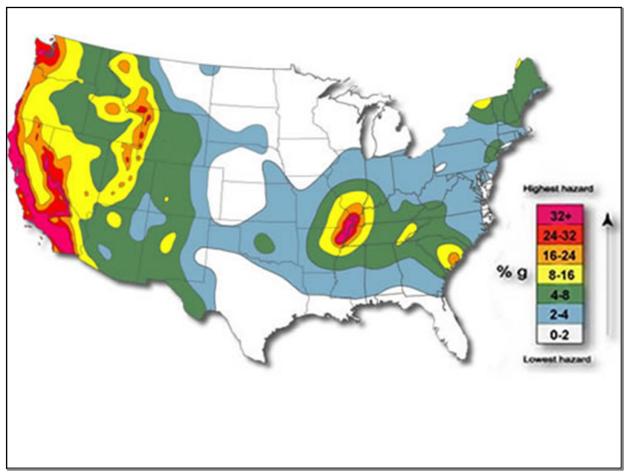
use other devices to detect motion on faults
with all the data, geologists cannot yet predict
when and where earthquakes might strike
from past seismographic data, geologists
have created maps of where earthquakes
occur around the world.
maps show earthquakes most often occur on
plate boundaries

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Earthquake risk in North America

Earthquake rick depends on how close a location is to a plate boundary

In USA, two plates meet along Pacific coast in California, Washington and Alaska Causes many faults
Frequent earthquakes occur in California (San Andreas Fault)
In Washington, Juan de Fuca plate is subducted = earthquakes



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Earthquake Risk Around the World

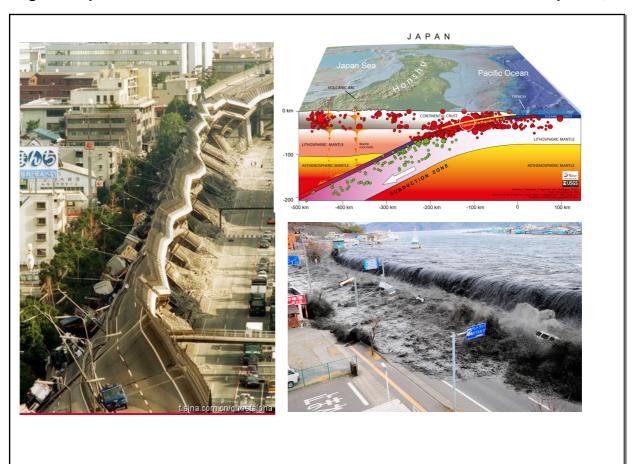
Many of the world's earthquakes occur in an area of geologic activity called the Ring of Fire

Place where plate boundaries form a ring around the Pacific Ocean

Volcanoes and earthquakes common here

Ring of Fire includes west coast of North, Central and South America, Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand and New Guinea

March 11, 2011- Japan, one of the most powerful earthquakes ever record



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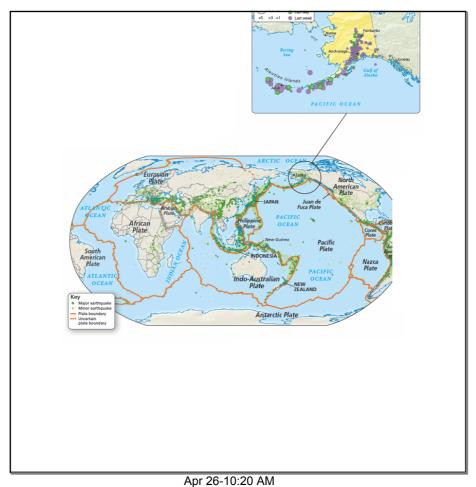
India, China and Pakistan have also been struck by large earthquakes

with aftershocks 6.7 recorded on Sunday

Indo-Australian plate collides with Eurasian plate
Saturday, there was an earthquake in Nepal. Registered 7.8



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