

Name: _____

REPRODUCIBLE SKILLS PAGE

Rate That Quake

The five most powerful earthquakes in history are listed in the chart below. To learn more about the damage they caused, check out the Richter (RIK-tuhr) scale on the right.

The Richter scale measures the strength of an earthquake. The stronger the earthquake, the higher the rating on the scale. Use the charts to answer the questions that follow them.



Five Most Powerful Earthquakes in the World Since 1900		
Place	Year	Richter Scale Rating
Chile	1960	9.5
Prince William Sound, Alaska	1964	9.2
Off the western coast of Sumatra, Indonesia	2004	9.1
Kamchatka, Russia	1952	9.0
Off the coast of Ecuador	1906	8.8

SOURCE: USGS

Richter Scale	
Richter Scale Rating	Type of Damage
0-4.3	no damage
4.4-4.8	some plates and dishes broken
4.9-5.4	furniture moved or turned over
5.5-6.1	furniture broken; walls cracked
6.2-6.5	some chimneys broken; trees damaged; some cracks in ground
6.6-6.9	houses damaged; pipes broken; large cracks in ground
7.0-7.3	some bridges destroyed; some damage to dams
7.4-8.1	bridges destroyed; rails bent; landslides
8.2-Up	total damage; large rocks moved

SOURCE: FEMA

- Where did the most powerful earthquake occur? _____
- How many years after the earthquake in Alaska did a 9.1 earthquake hit near Sumatra, Indonesia? _____
- What country was hit by a powerful earthquake in 1952?
 (A) Indonesia (B) Russia (C) Ecuador (D) Chile
- An earthquake that measures 5.7 on the Richter scale will most likely _____.
 (A) damage trees (B) break pipes (C) crack walls (D) break chimneys
- If an earthquake were only strong enough to break some plates, what would it measure on the Richter scale?
 (A) 4.2 (B) 4.5 (C) 4.8 (D) Either B or C

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