

Dear Mr. President Bush:

We have learned that the reason earthquakes occur is because of tectonic plates, which make up the earth's crust. These plates move horizontally and vertically. These plates are made up of rock and drift all over the globe. But they only drift 2.5 to 7 centimeters a year.

These plates shift because they lie atop liquid and slide around on top it. When they slide, the plates rub together and create an earthquake. There are three different types of plate movement. They are divergent, convergent, and lateral. Currently there are 14 continental and oceanic plates. These include: the Eurasian plate, Australian-Indian plate, Philippine plate, Pacific plate, Juan de Fuca plate, Nazca plate, Cocos plate, North American plate, Caribbean plate, South American plate, African plate, Arabian plate, the Antarctic plate, and Scotia plate.

About 200 million years ago, instead of seven little continents, there was one big super-continent called Pangaea. They say that over millions of years it split, moving only 5-7 centimeters a year.

We have determined that some places are more likely than others to experience earthquakes. The ocean crust moves more so it's more likely to experience earthquakes.

There is no way to stop earthquakes, but as technology is getting more advanced, we are able to determine where there might be earthquakes waiting to occur. But with nature, nothing is ever sure.

If Mexico or California had a big earthquake what could Arizona do? Well, we could send them clothes or food. We could go down there and try to help them clean up

their town or city. We would send doctors and medical personnel to for help. Hopefully everything would be fine.

Your friends,

Morgan and Heidi