

Dear Mr. President:

In the past two weeks we have been researching earthquakes. There have been many earthquakes happening every day around the world on both land and sea. We have researched all the information you have requested and discovered many interesting things about the way they occur and where they mostly take place. Earthquakes happen so much they even has there own scale called the Richter scale.

Plates rubbing, or bumping each other, causes earthquakes. The theory of plate tectonics explains the movement of the earth's plates. The tectonic plates are anywhere from 50 to 250 miles thick. There are currently fourteen continental and oceanic plates. These plates names are, 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 the Scotia plate. The plates are made of solid rock and drift all over the globe; they move both vertically and horizontally. There are also four types of plate boundaries: (1) divergent, (2) convergent, (3) transform, and (4) plate boundary zones.

While we were researching on earthquakes we were also learning about volcanoes. Volcanoes can occur between an oceanic and continental plate, between two oceanic plates, or between two continental plates. Volcanic activity occurring as a result of oceanic-continental convergence in the Andes and Cascade Range in the Pacific Northwest has been named the Ring of Fire. Divergent boundaries occur along spreading centers where plates are moving apart and new crust is created by magma pushing up from the mantle.

We think that in order to help California and Mexico, our neighbors, we should try to take them things like food or whatever they need after a big earthquake hits. We could also try to make new machines which tells us when and where they are going to hit before so we can prepare the other places faster.

Sincerely,

Tanner and Naomi