

Earthquakes & the Shaky Isles — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- New Zealand sits where two tectonic plates meet.
- This causes earthquakes, so it is nicknamed the 'Shaky Isles'.
- Most quakes are small, but some are large.
- People practise 'Drop, Cover, Hold' to stay safe.

Key vocabulary

- Earthquake — a shaking of the ground.
- Tectonic plates — giant pieces of Earth's surface.
- Fault — a crack where plates meet.
- Magnitude — how strong an earthquake is.

Why here?

Because New Zealand straddles a boundary between two plates, the ground shifts and shakes — making earthquakes a part of life.

Being prepared

Schools and families practise 'Drop, Cover, Hold' and keep emergency kits ready, just in case.