



New earthquake in China

China has been hit by a new earthquake, this time in Yunnan province in the south-west part of the country.

Although the quake only measured 5.7 on the Richter scale, it managed to damage 75,000 homes, completely destroy another 18,000 homes, and hurt more than 300 people. One person has also died.

Most of the destruction happened in the first quake, but eight aftershocks also caused more damage.

Hundreds of police have been sent to help in the area, along with aid like tents, blankets and medical supplies.

Yunnan is close to Sichuan province, where a huge earthquake in May last year killed more than 80,000 people.

The strongest earthquakes can measure up to 10 on the Richter scale. Although the quake in Yunnan wasn't very strong, it happened in an area with lots of buildings and people.



Listen to this news story!

www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090716.html





A. Reading Skills

Word Power – Use a dictionary and write down what these words mean:

① earthquake ⇒

⑥ aftershock ⇒

② province ⇒

⑦ aid ⇒

③ measure ⇒

⑧ supplies ⇒

④ damage ⇒

⑨ scale ⇒

⑤ destruction ⇒

⑩ area ⇒

Reading Questions

① What is this news story about?

- A. Yunnan province
- B. Predicting earthquakes
- C. The Sichuan earthquake
- D. A recent earthquake

② How many homes were affected?

- A. 75,000
- B. 18,000
- C. 93,000
- D. 18,300

③ How strong was this earthquake on the Richter scale?

④ What caused extra damage after the first big earthquake?

⑤ Why did this earthquake cause a lot of damage?





B. News Extra: What causes earthquakes?



Listen to this News Extra! www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090716.html



Listen and fill in the gaps

Earthquakes are sudden movements in _____ surface, which is _____ into large parts called plates. These plates _____ each other along lines called faults. The pushing and rubbing puts a lot of _____ the plates.

After a lot of pushing, eventually _____ slip against each other. This causes _____ to move suddenly, and big cracks _____ in the earth's surface.

There are earthquakes all over the world _____. However, most of them are _____, or happen in places where there are _____. The worst earthquakes happen _____ where the fault lines are very sensitive. The biggest earthquakes happen _____ like Japan, Indonesia, China and the United States.

Missing words help

countries | weak | stress
 people | ground | broken
 open | earth's | places
 against | day | plates

True or False?

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. The Earth is made up of one single plate. | T / F |
| 2. Faults happen where plates push against each other. | T / F |
| 3. Earthquakes can make big cracks open in the ground. | T / F |
| 4. Most earthquakes are very strong and dangerous. | T / F |





C. Talk Time!

Person A

- ⇒ **Wow! Nice job! You're good at this game.**
- B. Thanks! It's your turn now.
- ⇒ **Wait! Did you feel that?**
- B. Feel what? Oh my, the ground is shaking!
- ⇒ **I think it's an earthquake. What are we gonna do?**
- B. Climb out the window? Ooh, it's getting worse. This is scary!
- ⇒ **Not out the window – too dangerous! Quick, under the table!**

Person B

- A. Wow! Nice job! You're good at this game.
- ⇒ **Thanks! It's your turn now.**
- A. Wait! Did you feel that?
- ⇒ **Feel what? Oh my, the ground is shaking!**
- A. I think it's an earthquake. What are we gonna do?
- ⇒ **Climb out the window? Ooh, it's getting worse. This is scary!**
- A. Not out the window – too dangerous! Quick, under the table!

Ask the class!

- ❶ What were we doing at the start?
⇒ *Playing a game (together).*
- ❷ Who felt the earthquake first?
⇒ *Me.*
- ❸ What does my friend suggest?
⇒ *That we climb out the window.*
- ❹ What do I suggest instead?
⇒ *Getting under the table.*

Ask the class!

- ❶ What happened?
⇒ *There was an earthquake.*
- ❷ What is the ground doing?
⇒ *Shaking.*
- ❸ Does my friend think it is a good idea?
⇒ *No – too dangerous.*
- ❹ Do you think that is the best idea?
⇒ *?*





D. Class Discussion

Questions	<p>❶ Have you ever felt an earthquake?</p>	<p>❷ Why are earthquakes so dangerous?</p>	<p>❸ What would <u>you</u> do in a strong earthquake?</p>
<p><u>MY</u> Answers</p>			
<p>Friend 1</p>			
<p>Friend 2</p>			
<p>Friend 3</p>			





E. Write an email

- ① Read the email from your friend in Yunnan province in China:

Hi there,

Did you hear about the earthquake? It was terrible... We were very lucky, because our house was only damaged a little, and my little sister just had a little bump on her head. But many of my friends lost their houses or got hurt.

Your friend,

Poh

- ② Write an email to Poh below. Try to cheer her up if you can. Also give her some suggestions on what to do after the earthquake.





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Teacher's Notes

For ideas on how to apply various activities with the different lesson stages, please visit:

http://www.englishraven.com/wnk_teachers.html



Link to archive version of news page:

www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090716.html

Answer Keys:

A. Reading Skills

1. D 2. C 3. 5.7 4. Eight aftershocks 5. Because there were a lot of buildings and people in the area

B. News Extra: What causes earthquakes?

Earthquakes are sudden movements in the earth's surface, which is broken up into large parts called plates. These plates push against each other along lines called faults. The pushing and rubbing puts a lot of stress on the plates.

After a lot of pushing, eventually the plates slip against each other. This causes the ground to move suddenly, and big cracks can open in the earth's surface.

There are earthquakes all over the world every day. However, most of them are very weak, or happen in places where there are no people. The worst earthquakes happen in places where the fault lines are very sensitive. The biggest earthquakes happen in countries like Japan, Indonesia, China and the United States.

True or False?

1. F 2. T 3. T 4. F

