Earthquakes

CGC1D1 - Mr. Wittmann



- Earthquakes are the shaking or vibration of the ground as a result of rock suddenly breaking along a fault.
- Focus (hypocenter) = rupture point
- Epicenter = point on surface above the focus
- Foreshocks
- Aftershocks



The Earthquake Cycle

• Elastic Rebound Theory

- Earthquakes are a 'release of energy' in the form of seismic waves (vibrations in crust).
 - Plate movement
 - Rocks "locked together" (frictional bond)
 - Strain builds in rocks
 - Rocks bend & rupture/break



Seismic Waves

• Some of the waves that are generated by an earthquake travel within the earth and others travel along the surface.

1. Body waves

traveling within the earth

2. Surface waves

- traveling along the surface
- cause the most damage to buildings during an earthquake.

Surface Waves

- Surface waves can set up liquefaction in alluvium.
- This is where the most extensive damage to buildings occurs.
 - Liquefaction: wavelike, almost liquid, rolling of surface
 - Alluvium: fine material deposited by water over many years.
- Seismograph: records the vibrations of the crust (Richter Scale)







San Francisco Aftermath, 1906 Magnitude: 7.9



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THE END