

Excerpt from “Earth’s Shakes and Quakes”

Read the first full paragraph of the following excerpt aloud to a family member and answer the questions that follow.

objects tumble from shelves, and buildings may even collapse. In 1348 CE, people had no idea what caused earthquakes. Today we know that earthquakes are the result of powerful natural forces at work in Earth’s crust and mantle.

As you read in Chapter 2, scientists developed the theory of plate tectonics in the 1960s. The theory explains how Earth’s surface and interior change over very long periods of time. Some plates are pulling apart at their boundaries, other plates are colliding, and still others are sliding past each other. A lot happens at plate boundaries, including most earthquakes. In fact, one of the easiest ways to locate plate boundaries is to determine where earthquakes are occurring!



Locations of plate boundaries and past earthquake epicenters

