

Writing: Earthquake 1

Joe wonders what is related to the strength of an earthquake.

Dr. Schmidt visited Joe's class and explained that she studies earthquakes that affect islands. They learn that right now she is studying the Haiti 2010 earthquake, and that the city called Port-au-Prince is where the strength was the greatest.



Figure 1. *Damage after the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.*

Joe learns that some earthquakes start deeper inside the Earth than others, and that some rock types shake more easily than others. He also learns that earthquakes start underneath the Earth's surface and that is where they are the strongest. The depth where an earthquake started and the rock type usually affect the strength of an earthquake.

Joe also found the table below:

Earthquake	Strength at Earth's surface (MMI Scale: 0 to 12)	Depth where earthquake started	Rock Type	Air Temperature when earthquake started
A	12	20 km	Soft	22 °C
B	10	115 km	Soft	31 °C
C	8	222 km	Soft	14 °C
D	7	373 km	Hard	26 °C
E	5	500 km	Very hard	68 °C

