

Writing: Earthquake 2

Nan wonders what is related to the strength of earthquakes on the Earth's surface.

On a field trip to a science museum, Dr. Chow tells Nan that she studies the impact of earthquakes on cities. Nan learns that it costs more money to repair damage from earthquakes when they happen where lots of people live.



Figure 1. *Damage after the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China.*

Nan learns that earthquakes release different amounts of energy and last different amounts of time. She also learns that earthquakes start underneath the Earth's surface, and that is where they are the strongest. The amount of energy that is released and the amount of time an earthquake lasts usually affect the strength of earthquakes.

Nan also found the table below:

Earthquake	Strength at Earth's surface (MMI Scale: 0 to 12)	Amount of Energy Released during earthquake	Type of Fault	Time Shaking Lasted for earthquake
A	8	Very Large	Reverse	16 seconds
B	8	Very Large	Normal	14 seconds
C	7	Large	Normal	13 seconds
D	6	Medium	Normal	10 seconds
E	5	Medium	Reverse	9 seconds

