

Lesson 15

1. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and forest fires all do great damage. The greatest of all natural _____, however, are earthquakes.
2. Earthquakes do most damage because they strike without warning. With a hurricane, people usually have enough time to _____ to safety.
3. Those who have lived through a big earthquake never forget it. Once you have felt the ground _____ beneath your feet, the earth never feels quite the same afterward.
4. The worst earthquake ever recorded happened in China in 1556. The damage was _____, and almost a million people died.
5. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake started a terrible fire and killed 450 people. Those who survived it must have been _____ until the danger passed.
6. Buildings need not collapse even in a large earthquake. Walls can be strengthened to keep them from _____.
7. The location of an earthquake makes a difference to what happens. The more _____ settled an area is, the less chance there is of serious damage.
8. Cities built on one of the earth's faults are most at risk. _____ areas like San Francisco and Los Angeles have been hit hard in recent decades.
9. Faults in the earth's crust run through areas bordering the Pacific Ocean. These areas are _____ to earthquakes.
10. The San Andreas Fault runs six hundred miles along California. It lies on a _____ in the earth's crust that causes seismologists to worry.
11. Seismologists are scientists who study earthquakes. The more they learn about them, the better they hope to become at _____ when one will occur.
12. Seismologists track earthquakes wherever they occur. Each one is _____ carefully in the hope of learning more about what causes these events.
13. The Richter scale measures the strength of earthquakes. The higher the number, the more _____ the earthquake.
14. One number higher on the scale means a tenfold increase in strength. A _____ earthquake that measures 8.0 packs ten times the punch of one rated 7.0.
15. A higher Richter number may not mean more damage or deaths. Even a _____ earthquake can do damage if buildings are too flimsy to withstand the shock.