

GLOSSARY

● A

aftershock tremor that follows and is smaller than a major earthquake (99)

● E

earthquake vibration of the Earth's crust (99)

elastic rebound theory theory that rocks that are strained past a certain point will fracture and spring back to their original shape (99)

epicenter point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake (99)

● F

fault zone group of interconnected faults (101)

focus area along a fault at which slippage first occurs, initiating an earthquake (99)

● I

intensity amount of damage caused by an earthquake (104)

● M

magnitude a measure of the energy released by an earthquake; described as the amount of ground motion (104)

Mercalli scale scale that expresses the intensity of an earthquake with a Roman numeral and a description (104)

microquake earthquake with a magnitude less than 2.5 on the Richter scale (104)

● P

P wave primary wave; the fastest wave generated by an earthquake and the first to be recorded by a seismograph (103)

Pacific Ring of Fire major earthquake zone that forms a ring around the Pacific Ocean (100)

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● S

S wave secondary wave; a wave generated by an earthquake and the second to be recorded by a seismograph (103)

seismic gap zone of rock in which a fault is locked and unable to move and in which no major earthquake has occurred for a long period of time (110)

seismograph instrument used to detect and record seismic waves (103)

surface wave the slowest moving seismic wave generated by an earthquake and the last to be recorded by a seismograph (103)

● T

tsunami giant ocean wave that often occurs after a major earthquake with an epicenter on the ocean floor (106)