



# Earthquakes in Taiwan

Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

Taiwan is one of the most **earthquake-prone** places in the world. The island sits on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, where several large tectonic plates meet and push against each other. This movement creates a lot of energy under the ground. Taiwan experiences over 18,000 earthquakes every year, though most are too small to feel.

An earthquake happens when energy that has built up underground is suddenly released. This causes the ground to **shake** and **vibrate**. Scientists measure the strength of earthquakes using a scale called the **Richter scale**. Small earthquakes below magnitude 3 are barely noticeable. Large earthquakes above magnitude 6 can cause serious damage to buildings and roads.

One of Taiwan's most deadly earthquakes happened in 1999. It is called the **921 earthquake** because it struck on September 21st. The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.3 and killed over 2,400 people. Thousands of buildings **collapsed** and many people lost their homes. It remains the most devastating earthquake in Taiwan's modern history.

Taiwan has worked hard to prepare for earthquakes. Buildings are now built to be **earthquake-resistant**, meaning they are stronger and safer during shaking. Schools teach students how to protect themselves with **drills** — students practice hiding under desks and covering their heads. The government has set up early warning systems that can alert people a few seconds before shaking begins.

When an earthquake happens, it is important to stay calm and take **shelter**. Drop to the ground, get under a sturdy table, and hold on. Stay away from windows and heavy furniture. After the shaking stops, move to an open area outside. Being **prepared** can save your life during a big earthquake.

## A. Vocabulary

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. earthquake-prone _____     | a. fell down suddenly and completely              |
| 2. tectonic plates _____      | b. the size or strength of an earthquake          |
| 3. vibrate _____              | c. practice exercises to prepare for emergencies  |
| 4. Richter scale _____        | d. ready to deal with something before it happens |
| 5. collapsed _____            | e. likely to experience many earthquakes          |
| 6. earthquake-resistant _____ | f. large pieces of Earth's crust that move slowly |
| 7. drills _____               | g. to shake back and forth very quickly           |
| 8. shelter _____              | h. a system used to measure earthquake strength   |
| 9. magnitude _____            | i. designed to stay safe during an earthquake     |
| 10. prepared _____            | j. protection from danger or bad conditions       |

## B. True or False

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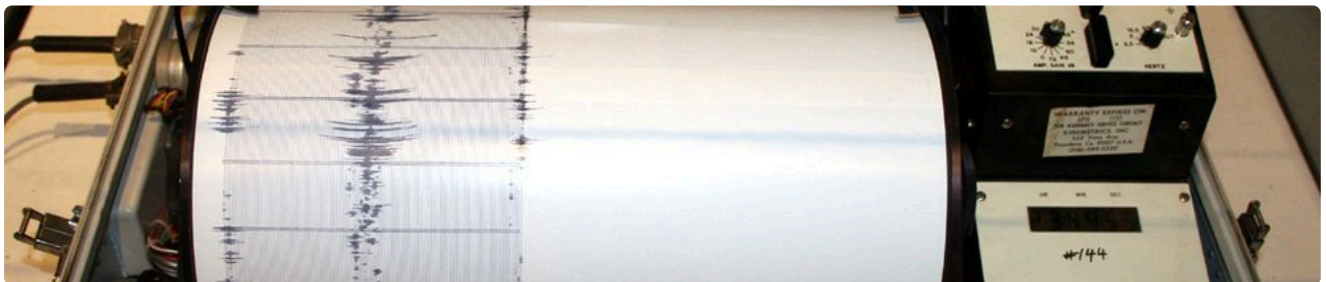
- \_\_\_ 1. Taiwan experiences over 18,000 earthquakes per year.
- \_\_\_ 2. Taiwan is located on the Atlantic Ring of Fire.
- \_\_\_ 3. The Richter scale measures earthquake strength.
- \_\_\_ 4. The 921 earthquake happened in August.
- \_\_\_ 5. The 921 earthquake had a magnitude of 7.3.
- \_\_\_ 6. New buildings in Taiwan are built to be earthquake-resistant.
- \_\_\_ 7. Schools in Taiwan practice earthquake drills.
- \_\_\_ 8. During an earthquake, you should run outside immediately.
- \_\_\_ 9. Early warning systems give people a few seconds of notice.
- \_\_\_ 10. Earthquakes above magnitude 6 can cause serious damage.

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** earthquake-prone, vibrate, Richter scale, collapsed, drills, shelter, magnitude, prepared

- 1. Taiwan is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ places in the world.
- 2. Scientists measure earthquake strength using the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. During the 921 earthquake, thousands of buildings \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Schools teach students to protect themselves with earthquake \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. When an earthquake strikes, find \_\_\_\_\_ under a sturdy table.



## D. Comprehension Questions

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- 1. Why does Taiwan experience so many earthquakes?
- 2. What was the 921 earthquake and why was it important?
- 3. What should you do during an earthquake?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- 1. Have you ever felt an earthquake? What did it feel like?
- 2. What can people do to be better prepared for earthquakes?

# Answer Key

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**A. Vocabulary:** 1-e, 2-f, 3-g, 4-h, 5-a, 6-i, 7-c, 8-j, 9-b, 10-d

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-earthquake-prone, 2-Richter scale, 3-collapsed, 4-drills, 5-shelter

**D. Comprehension:**

1. It sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire where tectonic plates meet
2. A magnitude 7.3 quake on Sept 21, 1999 that killed over 2,400 people
3. Drop down, get under a sturdy table, hold on, stay away from windows