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LESSON 7

Analyzing Events and Concepts

RI.3.3

Lexile: 580L Science

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Test Yourself

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

calculated
to determine

Earthquake!

Have you felt an earthquake? An earthquake is the sudden shaking of the ground. They happen along fault lines of Earth's crust. Scientists cannot tell when an earthquake will happen. They are working to be able to in the future.

The power of an earthquake can be calculated. Some earthquakes are felt more than others. You may see hanging pictures move or hear items on shelves rattle during an earthquake. The Richter scale measures earthquakes. An earthquake that is less than 4.0 does not usually break things. Those that are less than 2.0 cannot be felt. An earthquake that is 7.0 is a big earthquake. Earthquakes usually last less than one minute.

If there is an earthquake, there are a few things you should do. You should drop, cover, and hold. Get down on the ground. Cover yourself with something that will protect you, like the kitchen table. Hold on to it until the shaking stops. Make sure to stay away from windows. If you are outside, get away from buildings, streetlights, and poles. The most important thing to do is to stay calm.

There may be after shocks after the earthquake. These are smaller earthquakes that can cause more damage.

In 1906, there was an earthquake that measured 6.7 on the Richter scale. It happened in San Francisco, California. Someone that experienced it said, "It was like riding a bicycle down a long flight of stairs."

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Skill Strategy
Cause and Effect—see page 21 of the teacher's edition

Vocabulary
calculated, crust, damage, fault, shock

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1 Which of these is the *first* thing you should do if there is an earthquake?

A Get down on the ground.
B Hold on until the shaking stops.
C Turn off all the lights in the house.
D Cover yourself with something that will protect you.

RI.3.3

2 An earthquake happens along ____.

A holes
B fault lines
C narrow streets
D buildings that line the street

RI.3.3

3 The *most* important thing to do during an earthquake is ____.

A stay calm
B stay near windows
C go outside to see what is happening
D call your mom to make sure she is fine

RI.3.3

4 What happens during an earthquake?

An earthquake is the sudden shaking of the ground. They happen along fault lines. Some earthquakes are felt more. You may see hanging pictures move during an earthquake. RI.3.3

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Listening/Speaking

Discuss with students how scientists measure earthquakes with the Richter scale. Invite students to discuss ways that scientists measure rain, wind, and temperature, and other weather-related events.

ELLs

Ask students what words they know for types of weather. Ask them to describe the weather, completing sentences like these: *Today it is* ____. *The weather last weekend was* ____.

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5 What is used to measure earthquakes?

The Richter scale measures earthquakes. An earthquake that is less than 4.0 does not usually break things. Those that are less than 2.0 cannot be felt. An earthquake that is 7.0 is big. RI.3.3