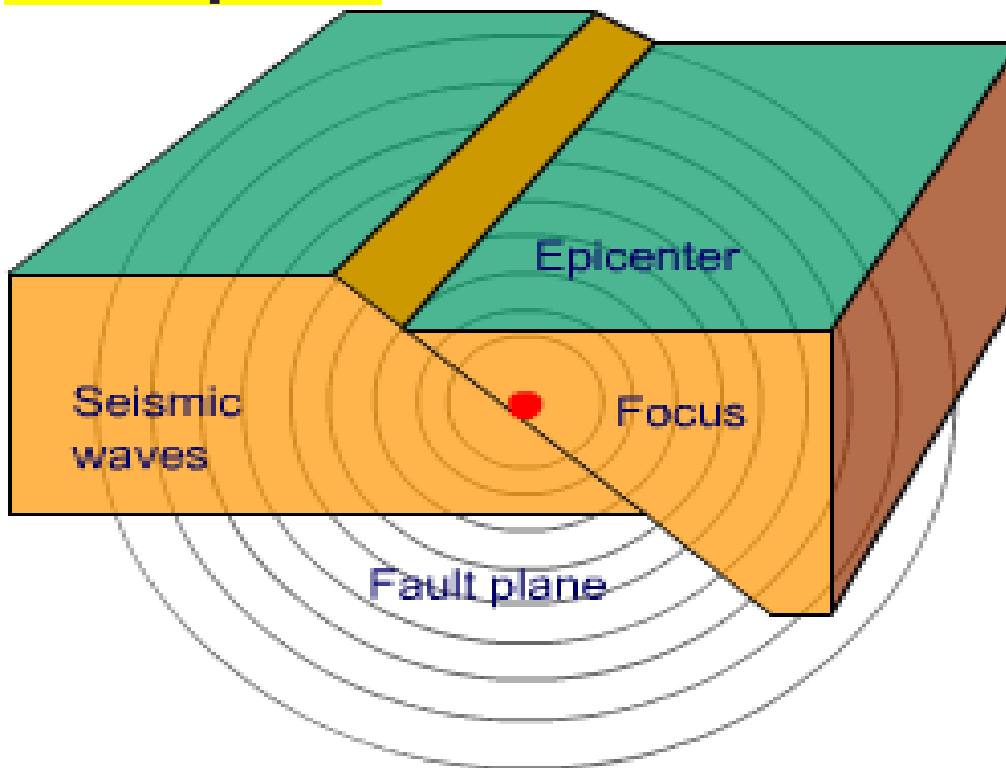


Chapter – 3 (Geography)

Class-- 7

Our Changing Earth

Earthquake



The vibrations caused on the surface of the earth when the Lithospheric plates move are **called earthquakes**. These vibrations can travel all around the earth. The place in the earth where the

movement starts is **called the focus**. It is the origin of the seismic energy. The place on the surface above the focus is called the epicentre. Vibrations travel outwards from the epicentre as waves. The strength of the earthquake decreases away from the epicentre. In other words, the greatest damage is usually closest to the epicentre.

There are three types of earthquake waves:

- a. P waves or longitudinal waves
- b. S waves or transverse waves
- c. L waves or surface waves

Earthquake preparedness

Although earthquakes cannot be predicted, the impact can definitely be minimized if we are prepared in advance. It is rightly said - 'Prevention is better than cure'. Some common earthquake prediction methods adopted locally by people is studying animal behavior which includes:

1. Fish in the ponds getting agitated

2. snakes coming to the surface

It is recommended to spread awareness amongst our family and acquaintances so that they face the disaster confidently. Some of the do's and don't's of earthquake are:

1. Take shelter under a kitchen counter, table, desk or against an inside corner/wall.

2. Avoid areas around chimneys, fire places, windows that shatter including mirror and picture frames.

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(26- 5-2020)