

# SEISMIC ACTIVITY

# CAUSES OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY

## **Lesson one**

# LEARNING OUTCOME: LESSON ONE

Understand the causes of seismic activity.

# WHAT IS A EARTHQUAKE

An earthquake is a sudden and rapid shaking of the earth's surface caused by the release of energy stored in rocks.

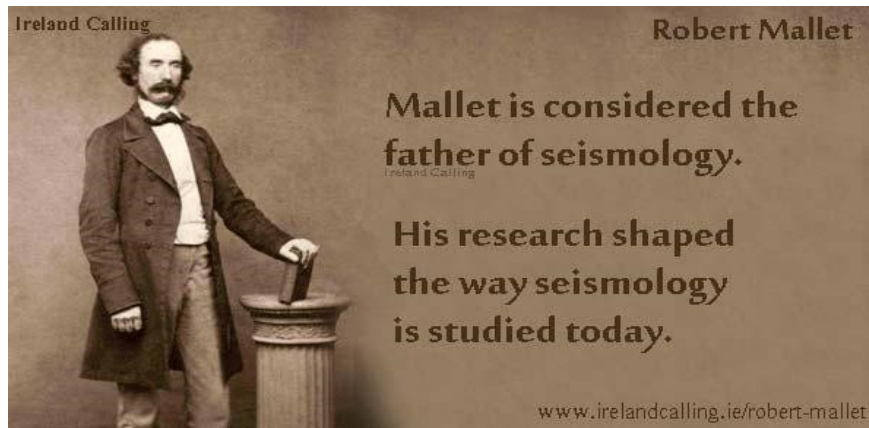
# KEY TERMS

Seismology- study of earthquakes

Seismologist- someone who studies earthquakes

Additional information:

Founder of seismology was an Irish man by the name of Robert Mallet (1810-1881)

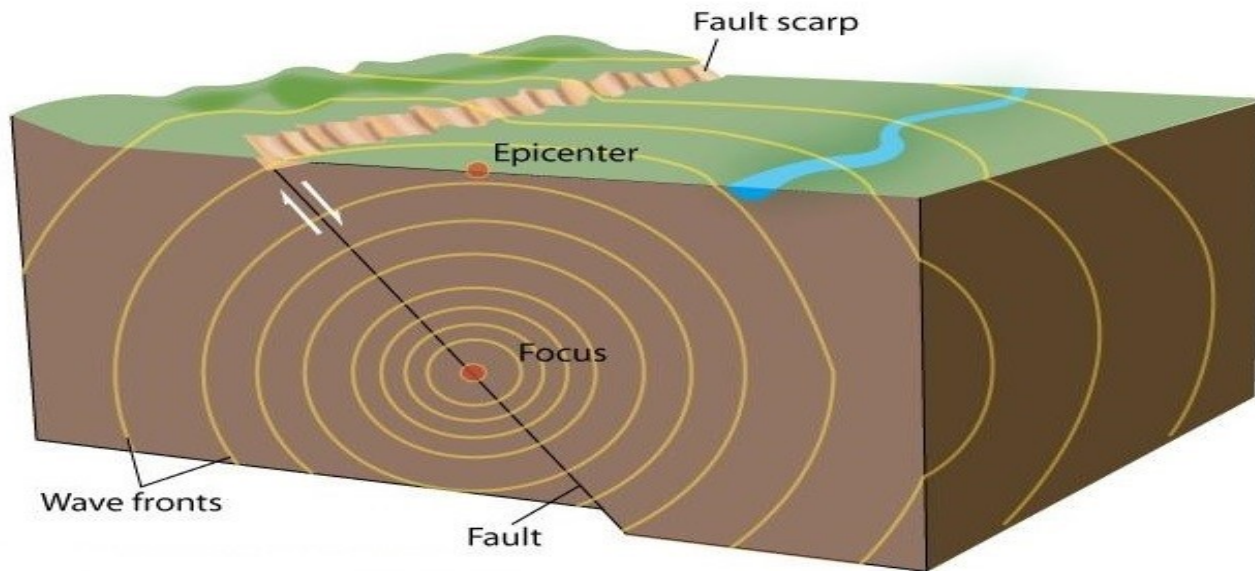


# ROBERT MALLET

In October 1849, Mallet carried out experiments on Killiney Beach to examine how fast energy passed through various materials including rocks and sand. Along with his son they buried kegs of gunpowder in the sand and detonated them. Father and son then measured how long it took the shock waves to travel over a set distance.

[https://www.dias.ie/2010/10/19/geophysicsrobertmallet/?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3961:geophysicsmalletbook&catid=148](https://www.dias.ie/2010/10/19/geophysicsrobertmallet/?option=com_content&view=article&id=3961:geophysicsmalletbook&catid=148)

# Seismic waves radiate from the focus of an earthquake



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[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCELEARN.ORG.NZ/RESOURCES/340-SEISMIC-WAVES](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/340-seismic-waves)

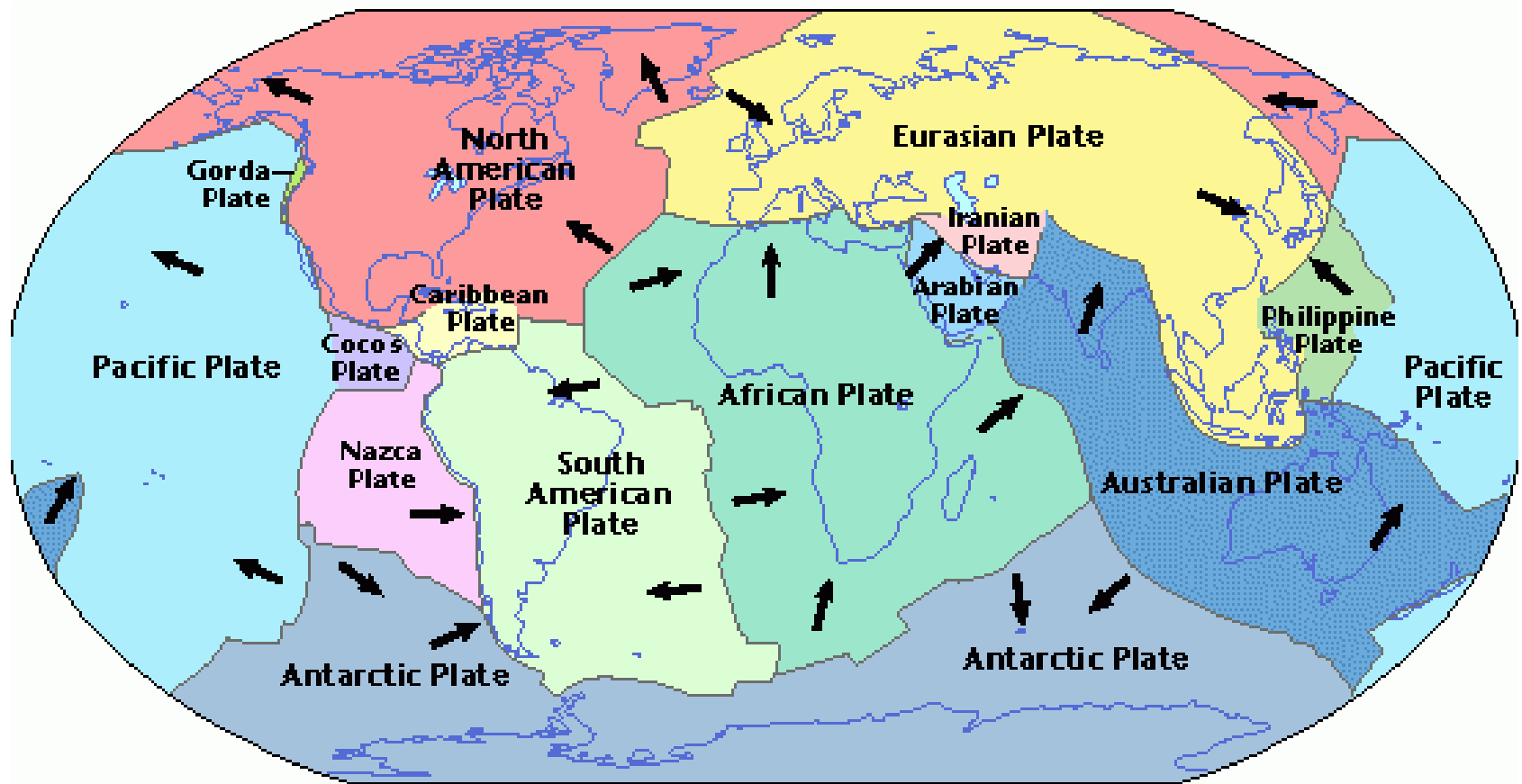
# CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- Plate movement.
- Natural processes.
- Human activity.

To see the most recent earthquakes detected in Ireland the Irish National Seismic Network:

<https://www.insn.ie/>





# TECTONICS

Forces of plate tectonics have shaped the Earth as the huge plates that form the Earth's surface slowly move towards, away, over, under and past each other

When the accumulated energy grows strong enough, the plates break free (move). If an earthquake occurs in a populated area, it may cause many deaths and injuries and extensive property damage.

Point at which the earthquake starts is the focus.

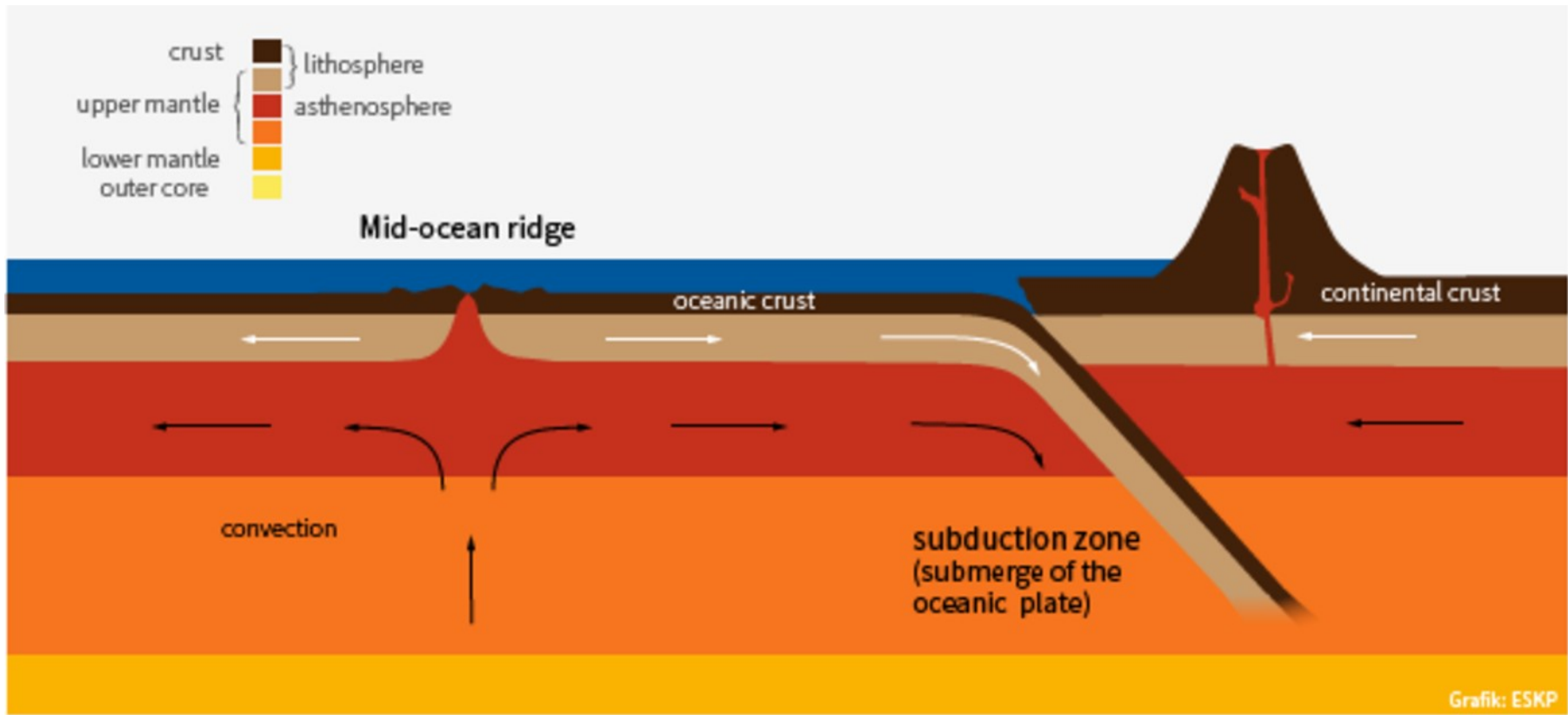
Epicentre- point directly above the focus on the earth's surface where the most damage occurs.

Seismic belt- areas of earthquake activity.

Most earthquakes occur along plate boundaries particularly at convergent (e.g. Turkey) and transform (e.g. San Andreas Fault) boundaries. Known as seismic belts.

10% of earthquakes occur within plates. As plates continue to move and plate boundaries change over geological time, weakened boundary regions become part of the interior of plates.

These zones of weakness within the continents can cause earthquakes in response to stresses that originate at the edge of the plates or in the deeper crust.



<https://www.eskp.de/en/basic-knowledge/natural-hazards/plate-tectonics-and-volcanism-935407/>

# TRY THIS LITTLE EXPERIMENT

- Break a block of foam rubber in half.
- Put the pieces on a smooth table.
- Put the rough edges of the foam rubber pieces together.
- While pushing the two pieces together tightly, push one piece away from you along the table top while pulling the other piece toward you. See how they stick?
- Keep pushing and pulling smoothly.
- Soon a little bit of foam rubber along the crack (the fault) will break and the two pieces will suddenly slip past each other. That sudden breaking of the foam rubber is the earthquake. That's what happens along a strike-slip fault.

<https://www.mtu.edu/geo/community/seismology/learn/earthquake-cause/>

# NATURAL CAUSES

- Volcanic eruption

<https://youtu.be/JypTLDLABzM>

- Glacial activity
- Reactivated fault lines

# GLACIERS CAUSING EARTHQUAKES

Glaciers are huge massive of ice:

They exert a lot of pressure on the earths surface when intact.

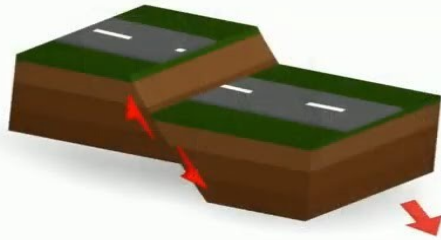
When they melt pressure is released and can cause earthquakes

# FAULT LINES

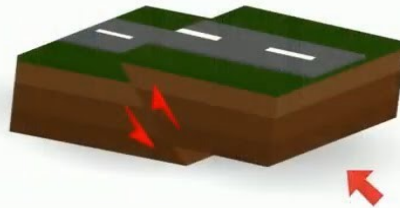
A fracture between two blocks of rocks.

- Normal fault
- Reverse fault
- Transform fault

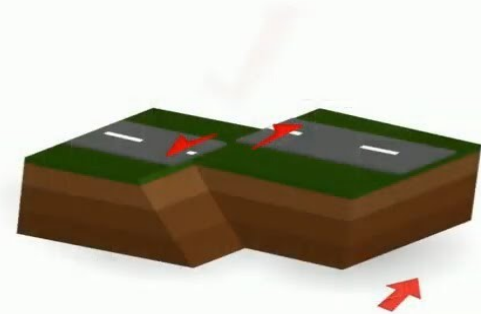
## Types of Faults



NORMAL FAULT



REVERSE FAULT



Transform fault



# FAULTS AND EARTHQUAKES

- Earthquakes take place as a result of the sudden release of energy during fault movement.

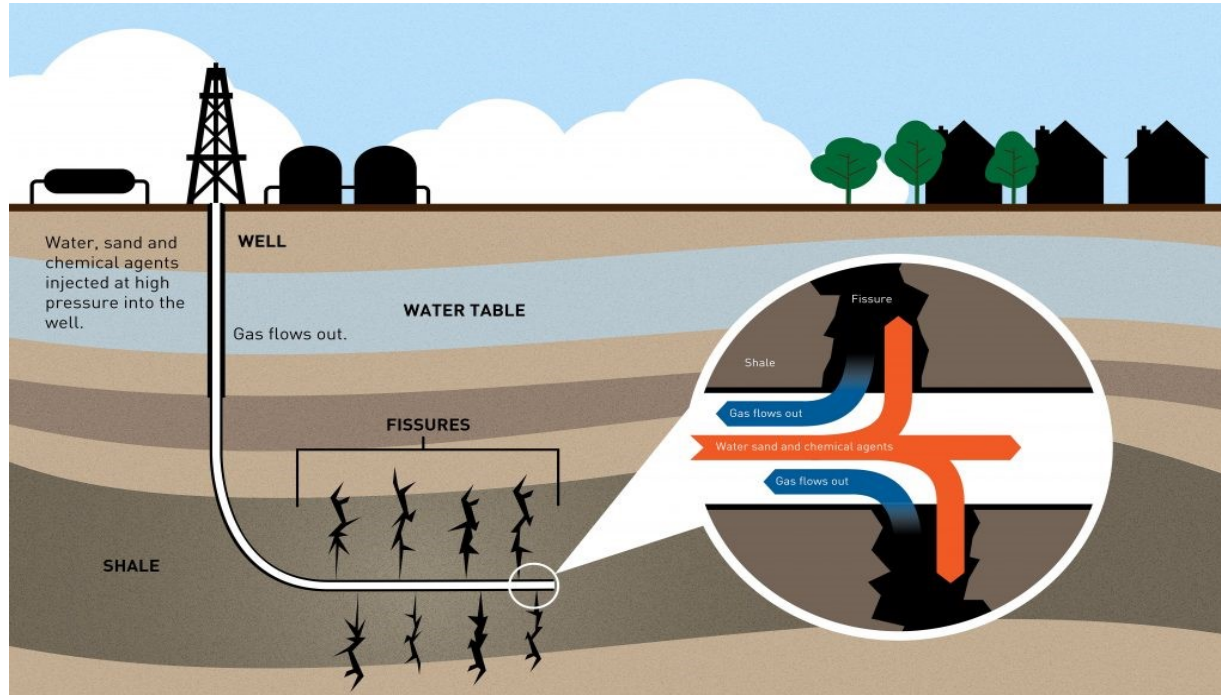


<https://seismo.berkeley.edu/blog/2017/05/04/The-mystery-about-earthquake-fissures.html>

# HUMAN ACTIVITY

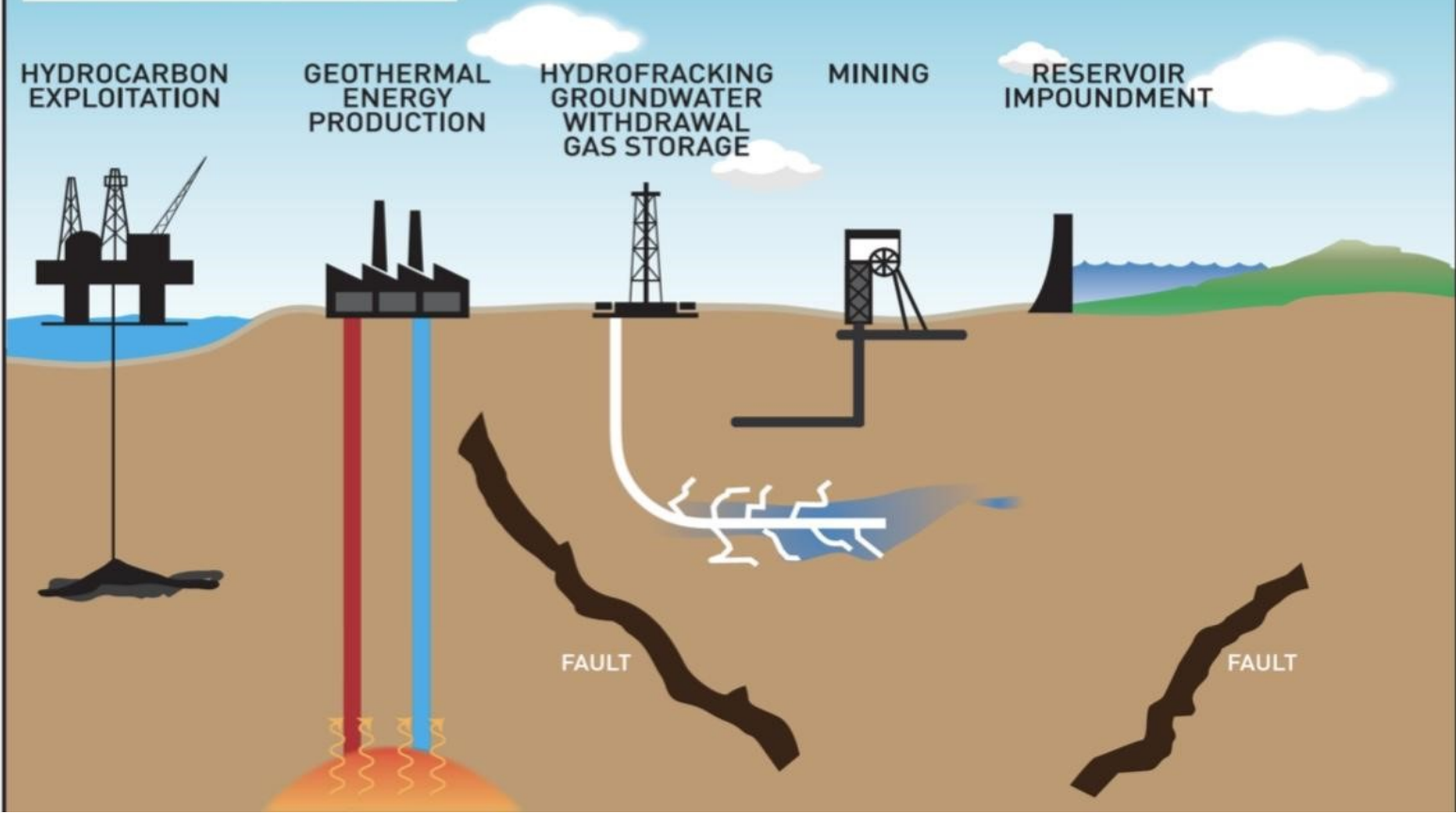
- Fracking
- Quarrying/ mining
- Dam building
- Nuclear bombs

# Fracking



Fracking is banned in Ireland since 2017.

# INDUCED SEISMICITY



# NUCLEAR BOMB

[https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/can-nuclear-explosions-cause-earthquakes?qt-news\\_science\\_products=0#qt-news\\_science\\_products](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/can-nuclear-explosions-cause-earthquakes?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products)

- seismologists can tell the difference between a big explosion and a small earthquake.
- During the cold war the US could tell when the Soviets were testing nuclear bombs as the seismicity of explosions is different from natural earthquakes.

# ACTIVITY - PROJECT

- Students should first state what is meant by seismic activity.
- List the different causes of seismic activity.
- Briefly explain each cause. Focus on plate tectonics and how either convergent or transform boundaries create earthquakes.
- Focus on one of the natural process causes in a bit more detail.
- Look at one human cause in detail.

# KEY TERMS RECAP

- Seismology- the study of earthquakes.
- Seismologist- a person who studies earthquakes.
- Seismic belts- areas of earthquake activity, mainly found at plate boundaries.
- Convergent boundary- where plates collide, also known as destructive boundaries.
- Divergent boundaries- where plates separate, also known as constructive boundaries.
- Transform boundaries- where plates slide past each other, also known as conservative boundaries.

# KEY TERMS RECAP

- Focus- point at which an earthquake starts.
- Epicentre- the point directly above the focus on the earth's surface, where most damage occurs.
- Fault lines- a fracture between two blocks of rocks.
- Escarpments- an area separating two level land surfaces that occur as a result of faulting.
- Fracking- process of drilling down into the earth before a high-pressure water mixture is directed at the rock to release the gas inside.
- Quarrying- process of extracting rock from the earth's surface.
- Fissures- a fracture in rock.



# MEASUREMENT OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY

**Lesson two**

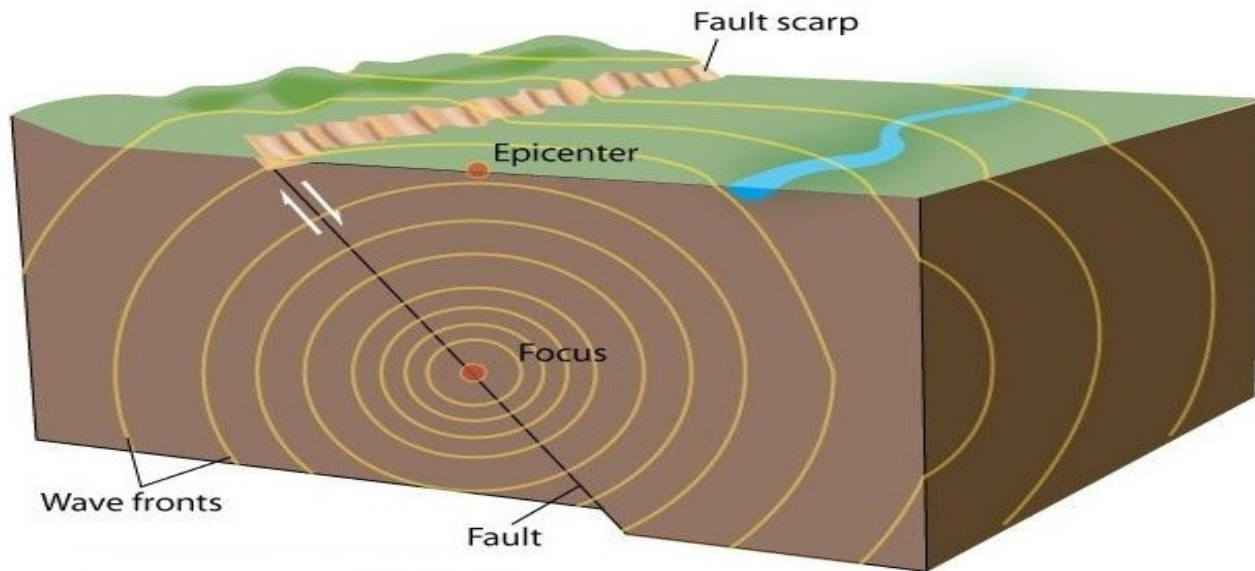
# LEARNING OUTCOME

- Understand how seismic activity can be measured.
- Understand how we measure seismic activity in Ireland.

# KEY TERMS

- The point inside the Earth's crust where the energy is released is called the focus.
- The point on the surface above the focus is called the epicentre.
- The energy is released in the form of waves which are called seismic waves.
- The power of the earthquake is measured using a seismometer, which picks up the vibrations. It plots these on a seismograph.

# Seismic waves radiate from the focus of an earthquake

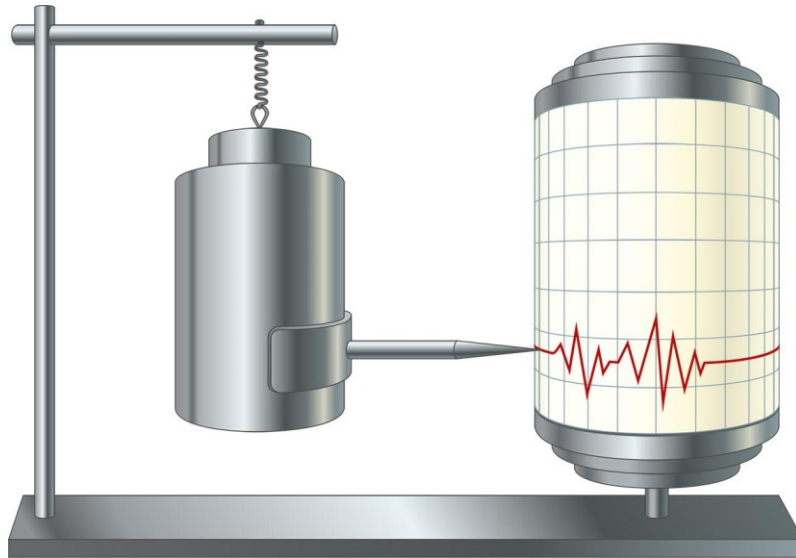


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[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCELEARN.ORG.NZ/RESOURCES/340-SEISMIC-WAVES](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/340-seismic-waves)

# WHAT IS A SEISMOMETER

An instrument for measuring the direction, intensity, and duration of earthquakes by measuring the movement of the ground.



<https://www.seis-insight.eu/en/public-2/planetary-seismology/how-a-seismometer-works>

# SEISMOMETERS ONLINE

<https://shakenet.raspberrypi.org/#?net=AM&sta=RF7A3>

# PRESENTATION OF A SEISMOMETER IN USE.

The following slides are from a presentation by an owner of a seismometer in Dublin.

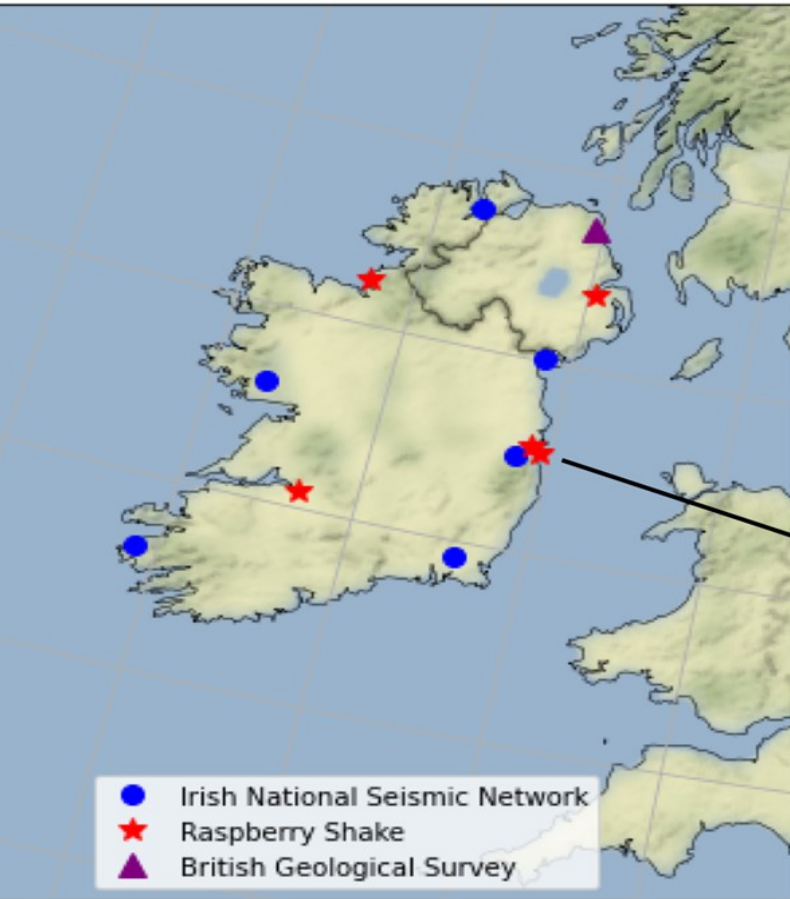
Pablo Rodriguez Salgado

Fault Analysis Group

School of earth science,

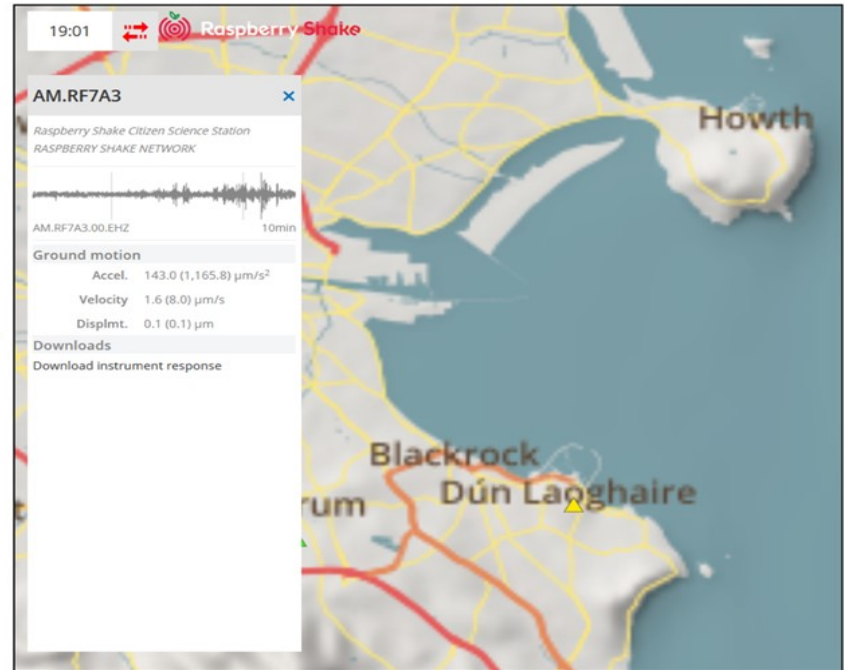
UCD.

## Seismic Stations in Ireland

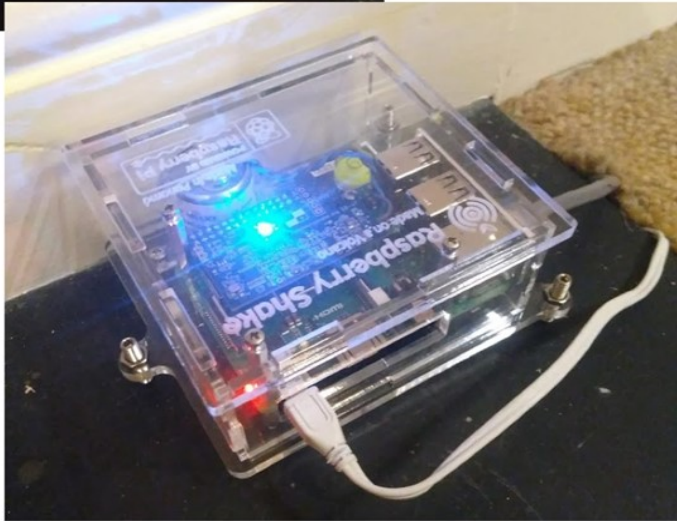
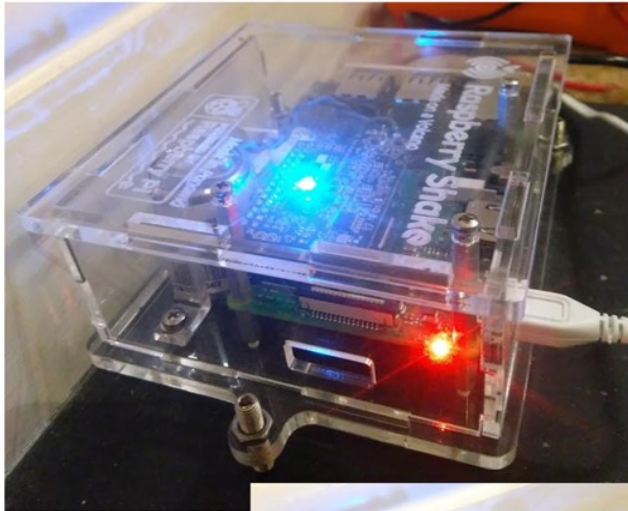


## My seismic station: Raspberry Shake 1D ,RF7A3

- The station has 1 vertical geophone, 4.5 Hz
- Located in Dún Laoghaire
- Real time data from my station can be visualized here:  
<https://raspberrypi.net/stationview/#?net=AM&sta=RF7A3>



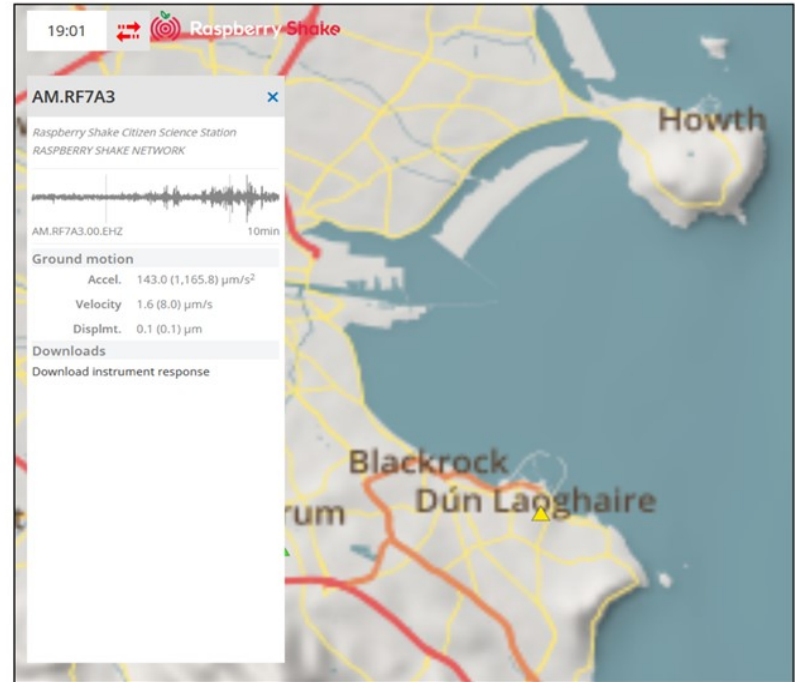




## My seismic station: Raspberry Shake 1D ,RF7A3

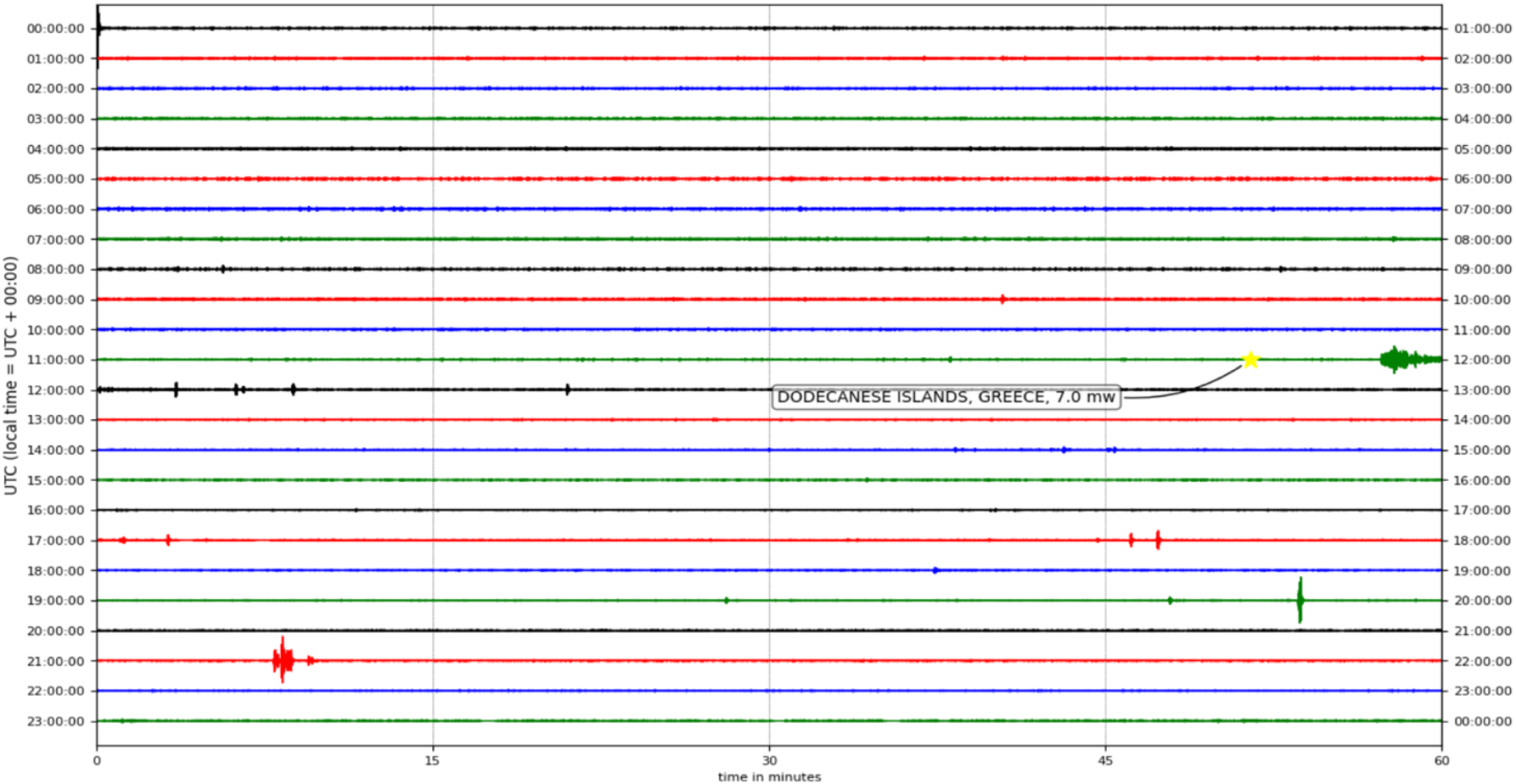
- The station has 1 vertical geophone, 4.5 Hz
- Located in Dún Laoghaire
- Real time data of my station can be visualized here:

<https://raspberrysake.net/stationview/#?net=AM&sta=RF7A3>

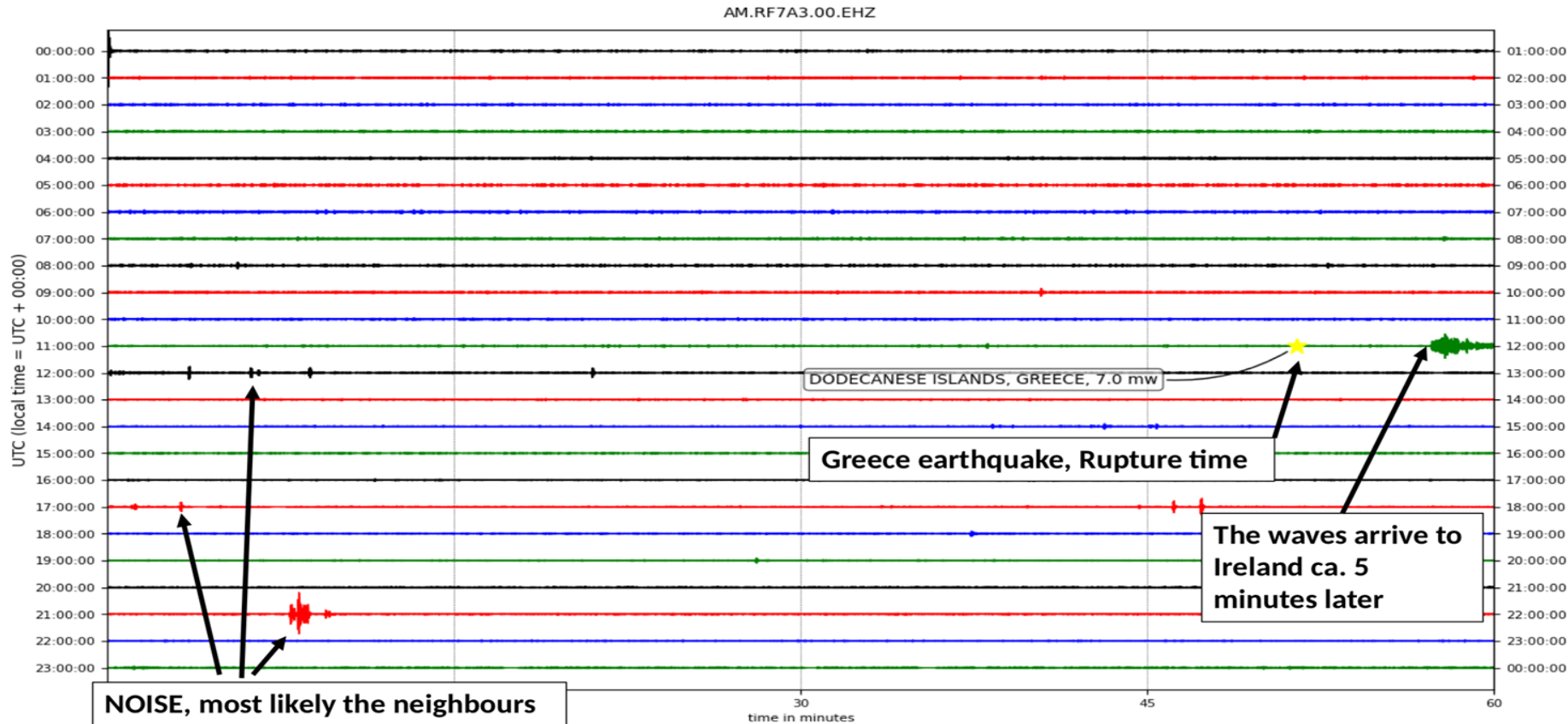


# 24 h record of my seismometer on Friday 30 October (each line = 60 minutes) :

AM.RF7A3.00.EHZ



# 24 h plot (each line = 60 minutes) of my seismometer on Friday 30 October:



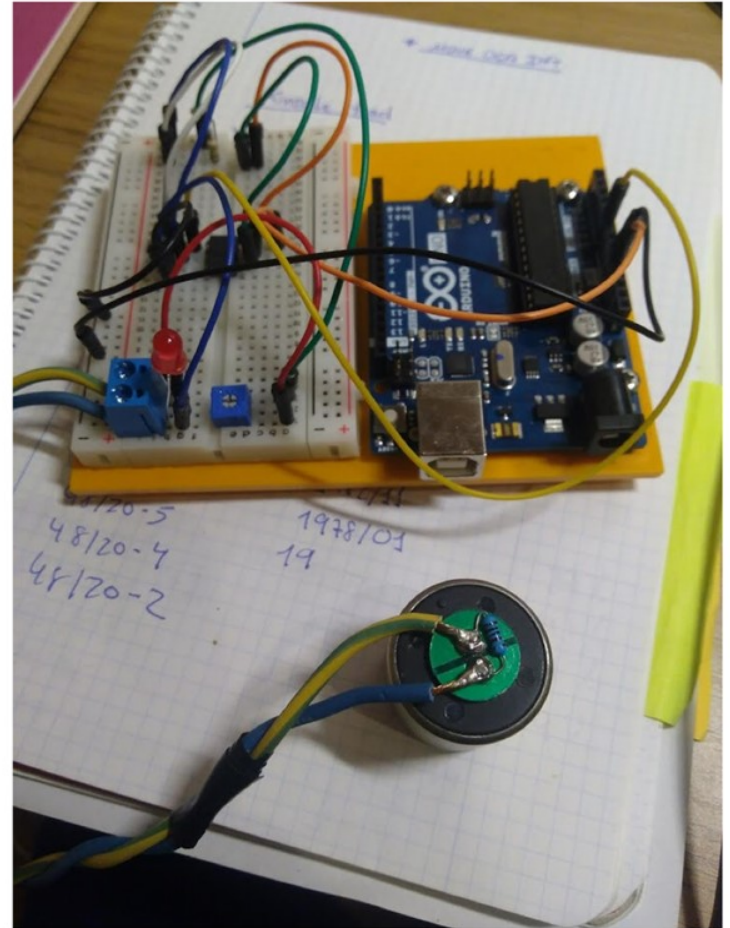




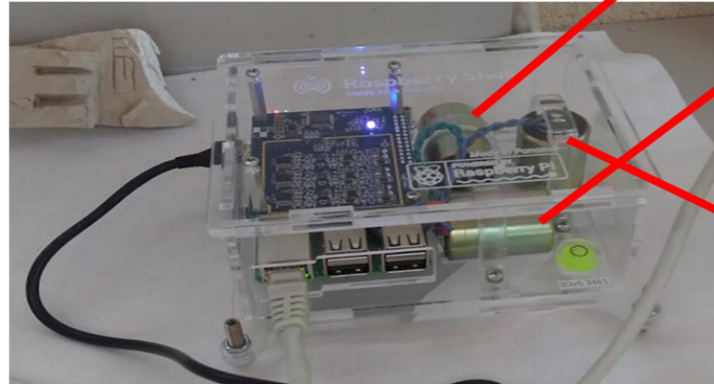
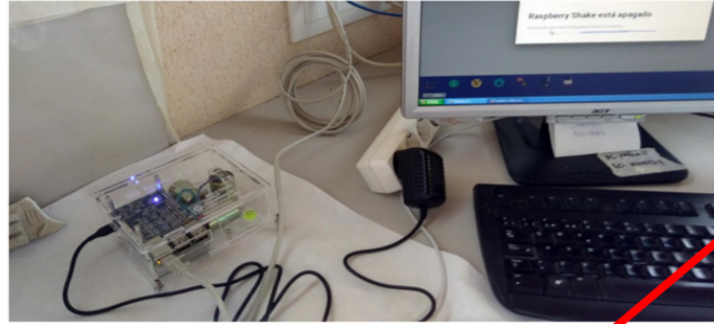
## The main sensor this type of seismometers is a geophone:

- It converts **ground** motion into **voltage**.
- The geophone has a **magnetic core** surrounded by a **coil**.
- The **magnetic core** is attached to a **spring**, so it can move up and down, following the ground vibration.

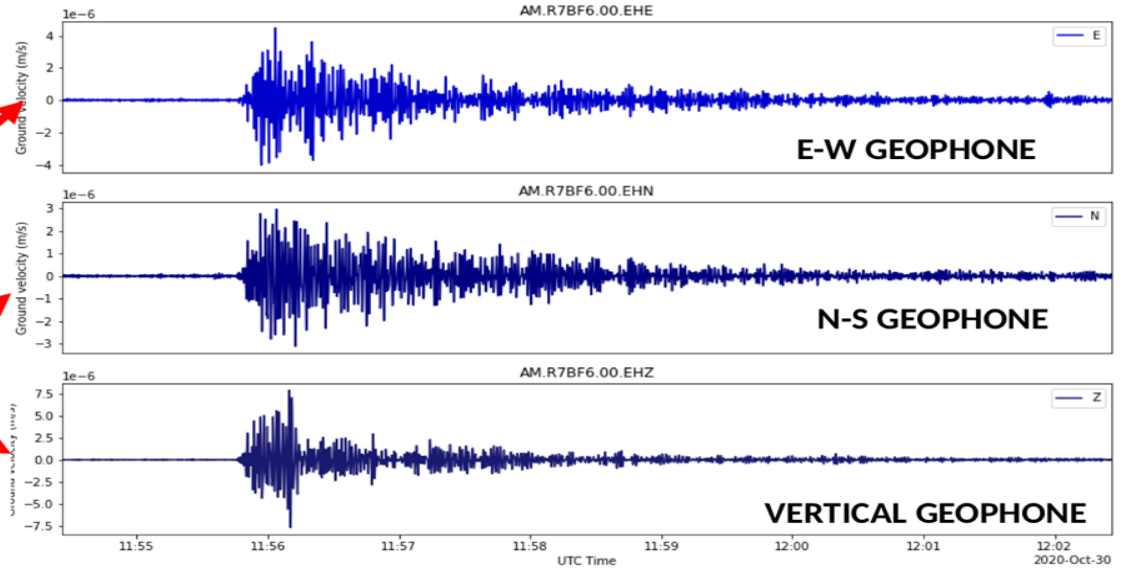
DIY seismometer build using a geophone, an Arduino microcontroller and an amplifier.



I am also in charge of the R7BF6 station in Caldes de Malavella (Spain). This one allows more complete measurements: it has 3 geophones along N, E and Z directions.



### 7.0 Greece Earthquake in my raspberry shake station R7BF6

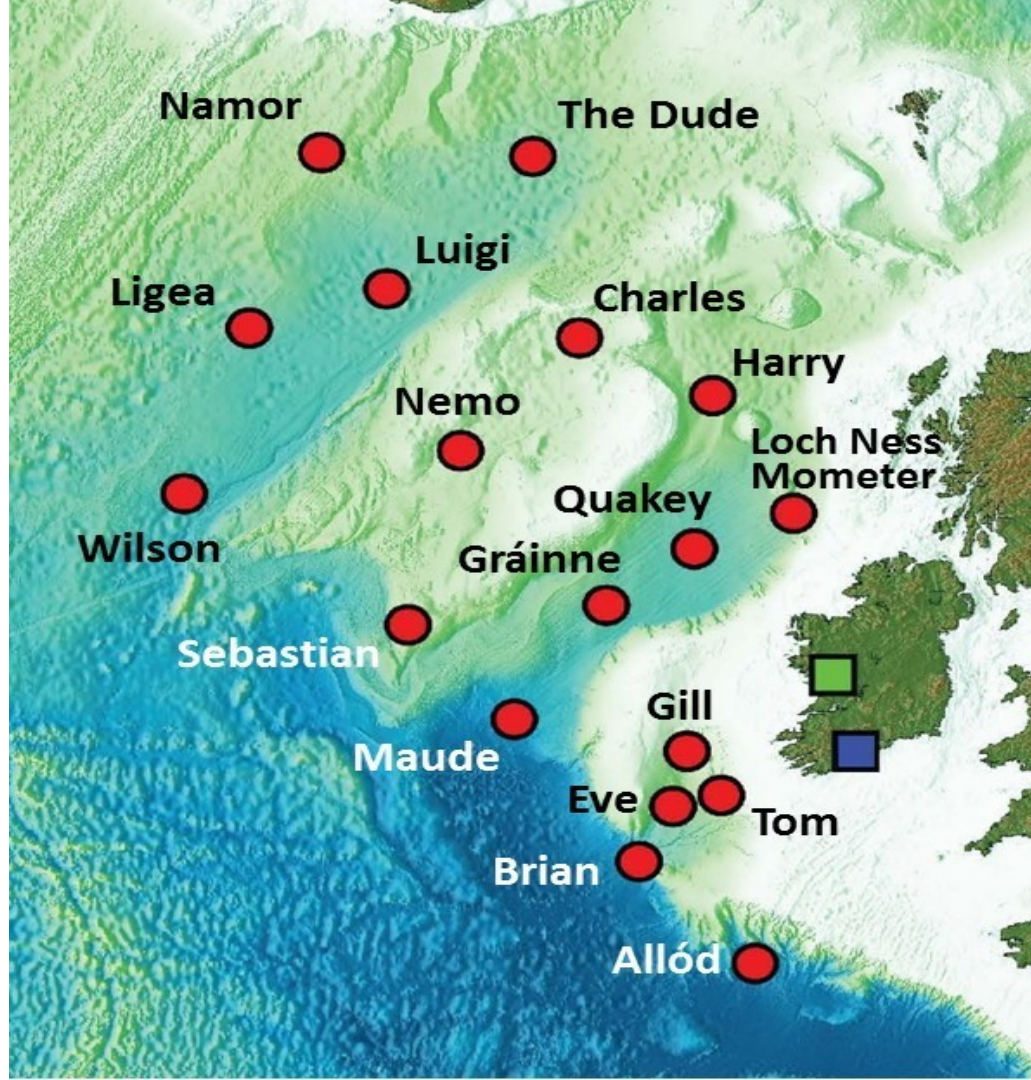


# WHERE CAN THEY BE FOUND OFF THE IRISH COAST

<https://youtu.be/13TEKNP7lBY>

In the project SEA-SEIS (Structure, Evolution And Seismicity of the Irish offshore), scientists from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) have deployed 18 seismometers at the bottom of the North Atlantic Ocean.

<https://sea-seis.ie/2018/08/08/project-sea-seis/>



# 1. RICHTER SCALE

There are three scales used to measure earthquakes. The Richter Scale measures the strength or intensity of the shock waves produced. The scale is measured in steps from 1 upwards. Each successive unit is 10 times more powerful than the one before. Therefore an earthquake measuring 7 on the Richter Scale is 1,000 times more powerful than one measuring 4.

Up to 3.5 = Generally not felt, but recorded.

Under 6 = At most slight damage to well constructed buildings, but can cause major damage to poorly constructed ones over a small area.

Over 8 = Major Earthquake. Can cause serious damage over large areas of several hundreds of kilometres.

May 22, 1960: the largest earthquake ever recorded, occurred off the coast of southern Chile- measured 9.5 magnitude on the Richter scale.



# The Richter scale

Measures energy waves emitted by earthquake

0 - 1.9

Can be detected only by seismograph

2 - 2.9

Hanging objects may swing



3 - 3.9

Comparable to the vibrations of a passing truck



4 - 4.9

May break windows, cause small or unstable objects to fall

5 - 5.9

Furniture moves, chunks of plaster may fall from walls

6 - 6.9



Damage to well-built structures, severe damage to poorly built ones

7 - 7.9

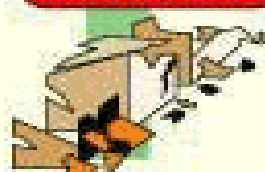


Buildings displaced from foundations; cracks in the earth; underground pipes broken

8 - 8.9

Bridges destroyed, Few structures left standing

9 and over



Near-total destruction, waves moving through the earth visible with naked eye

260302

AFP

## 2. MERCALLI SCALE

The Mercalli Scale measures the severity of earthquakes. It relies on how much damage is caused. It measures 1 to 12 using Roman numerals.

I = Only detected by instruments.

V = Tall objects rock. Plaster cracks.

XII = Total destruction. Ground thrown into waves. Objects thrown into the air.

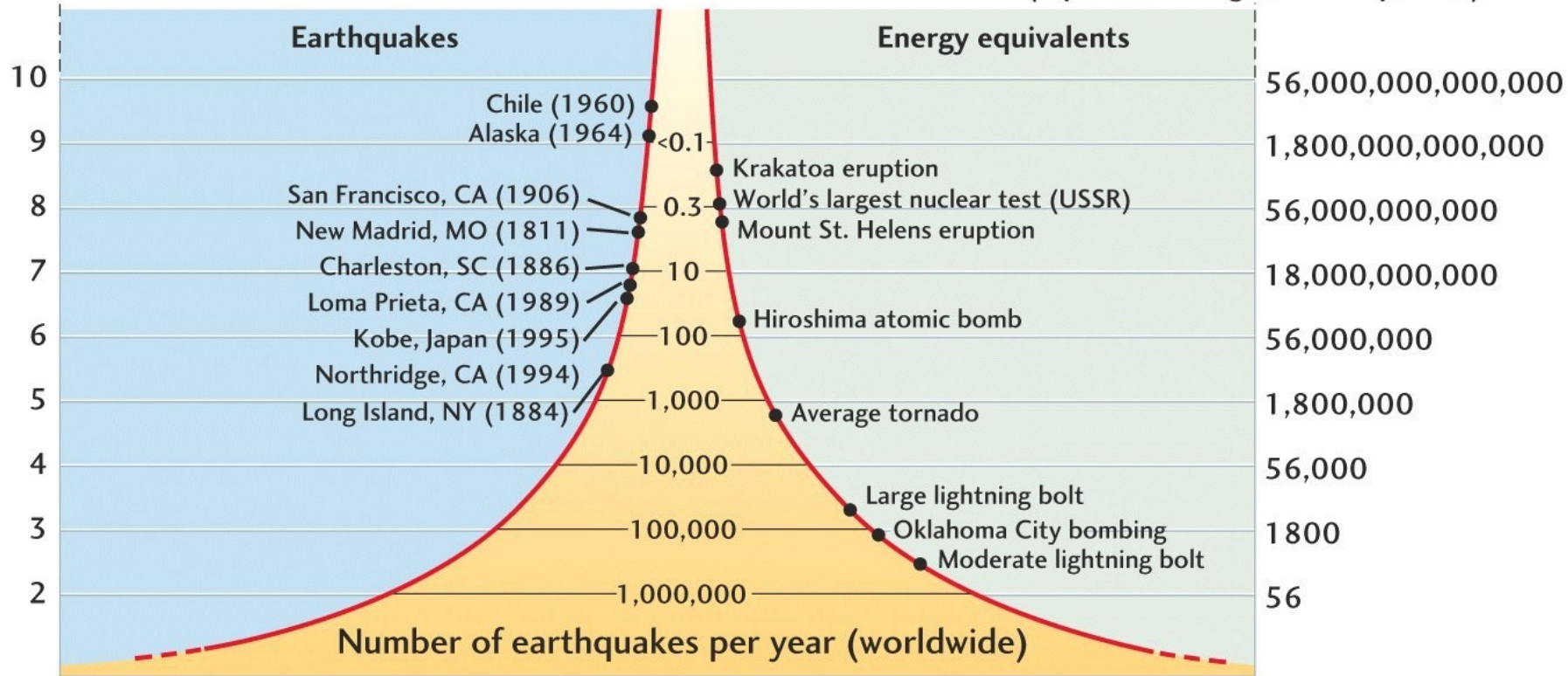
CIIM Intensity	People's Reaction	Furnishings	Built Environment	Natural Environment
I	Not felt			Changes in level and clarity of well water are occasionally associated with great earthquakes at distances beyond which the earthquakes felt by people.
II	Felt by a few.	Delicately suspended objects may swing.		
III	Felt by several; vibration like passing of truck.	Hanging objects may swing appreciably.		
IV	Felt by many; sensation like heavy body striking building.	Dishes rattle.	Walls creak; window rattle.	
V	Felt by nearly all; frightens a few.	Pictures swing out of place; small objects move; a few objects fall from shelves within the community.	A few instances of cracked plaster and cracked windows within the community.	Trees and bushes shaken noticeably.
VI	Frightens many; people move unsteadily.	Many objects fall from shelves.	A few instances of fallen plaster, broken windows, and damaged chimneys within the community.	Some fall of tree limbs and tops, isolated rockfalls and landslides, and isolated liquefaction.
VII	Frightens most; some lose balance.	Heavy furniture overturned.	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction, but considerable in some poorly built or badly designed structures; weak chimneys broken at roof line, fall of unbraced parapets.	Tree damage, rockfalls, landslides, and liquefaction are more severe and widespread with increasing intensity.
VIII	Many find it difficult to stand.	Very heavy furniture moves conspicuously.	Damage slight in buildings designed to be earthquake resistant, but severe in some poorly built structures. Widespread fall of chimneys and monuments.	
IX	Some forcibly thrown to the ground.		Damage considerable in some buildings designed to be earthquake resistant; buildings shift off foundations if not bolted to them.	
X			Most ordinary masonry structures collapse; damage moderate to severe in many buildings designed to be earthquake resistant.	

### 3. MOMENT MAGNITUDE SCALE

The Moment Magnitude Scale is the successor to the Richter Scale and is today used by seismologists. It measures the energy produced by earthquakes. It again goes from 1 upwards. At each step about 32 times more energy is released than at the previous step. It has no upper limit, but the largest recorded earthquake was in Chile in 1960 which measured 9.5 on the Moment Magnitude Scale. The Kashmir earthquake in October 2005 which killed over 100,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless measured 7.6 on the M M Scale.

Magnitude

Energy release  
(equivalent kilograms of explosive)



# PREDICTING EARTHQUAKES

Seismologists can measure how much stress a certain region of the Earth's crust is under, and how quickly that stress is increasing. This knowledge, along with the elapsed time since the last quake, helps scientists to determine if another quake is on the way.

# ACTIVITY

1. Take a trip to the local primary school where a seismometer might be present.

<http://geoserver.iris.edu/stations/view/SIE#zoom=4&lat=52.69886&lon=-11.86523&layers=TFFBFFFFFFFFFFFF>

1. Make a seismometer. <https://youtu.be/41RzGwZIN0k>

1. As part of the project- talk about what is a seismometer.
  - Look and where they are located both in Ireland and abroad.
  - Why do you think they are located here?
  - Pick one of the scales mentioned and write up how they work.

# KEY TERMS

- Seismometer- an instrument used to measure earthquakes.
- Magnitude- the strength of an earthquake.

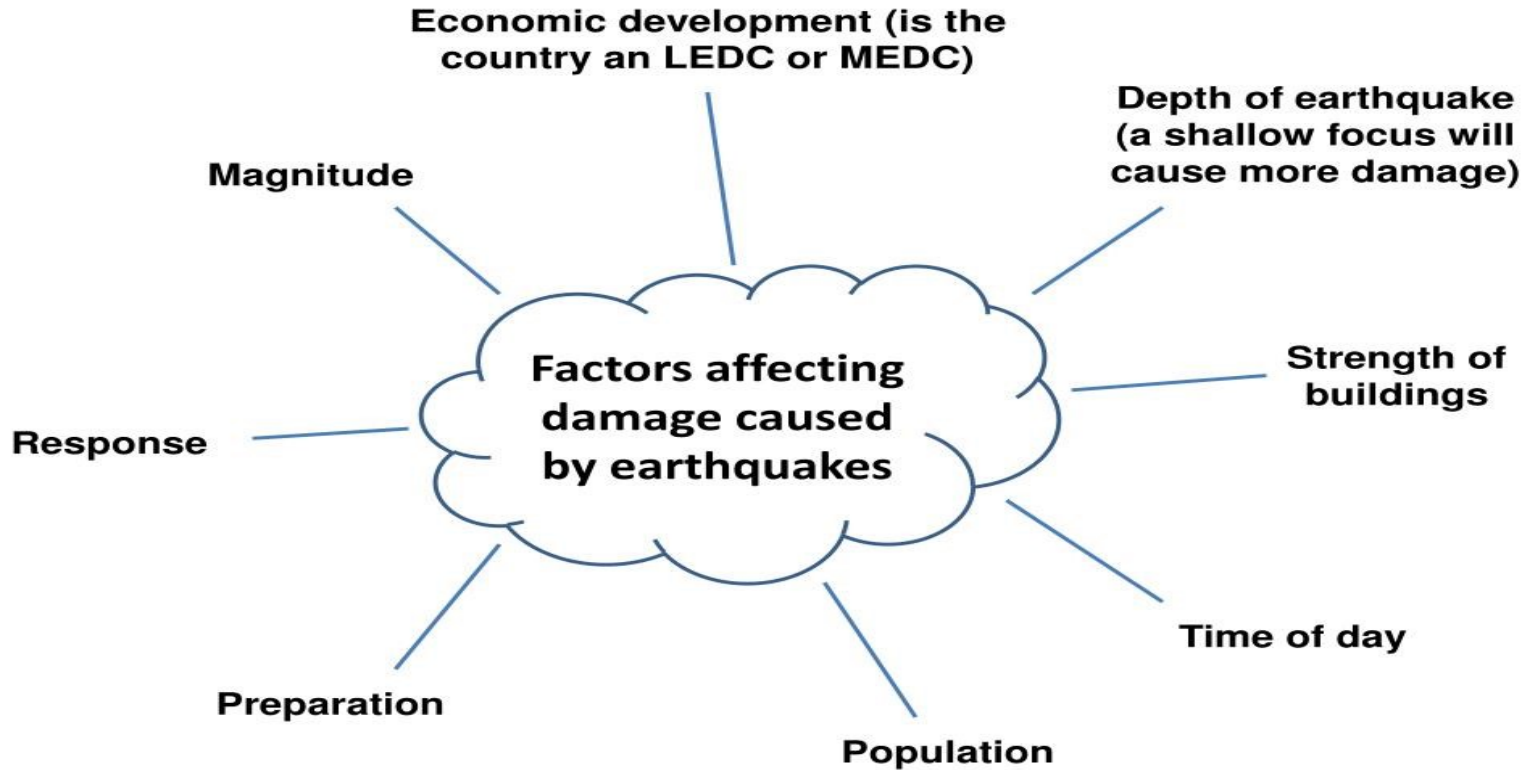


# EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE AND THE IMPACTS OF EARTHQUAKES

**Lesson three**

# LEARNING OUTCOME

Understand earthquake damage and the effects of earthquakes.

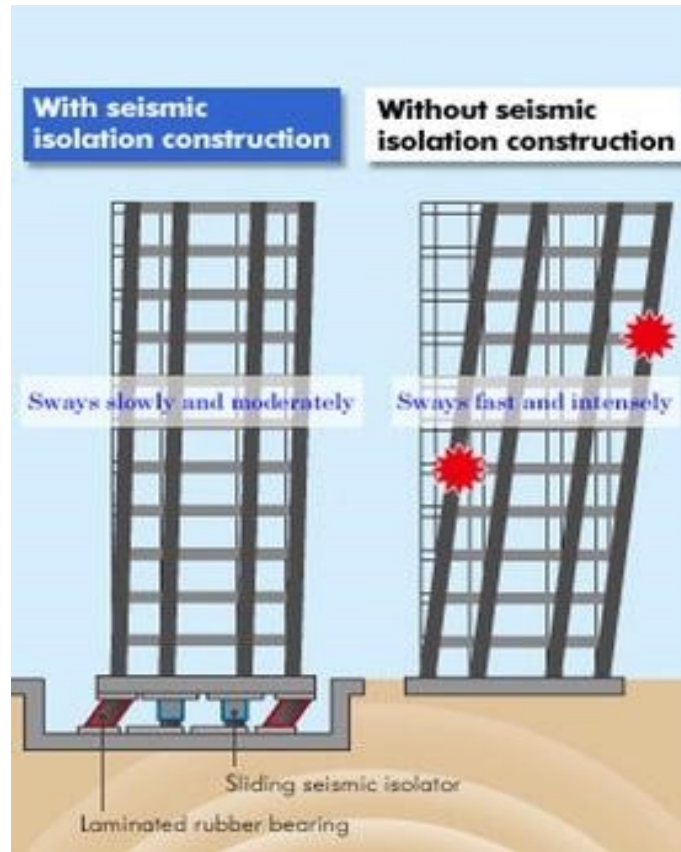


# FACTORS EFFECTING EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

The amount of property damage, injuries to people and loss of life depend on a number of factors including;

- The time of day.
- The time of year.
- The population density.
- The type of construction of the various structures.
- The geology of the region.
- The magnitude and duration of the earthquake.
- The distance from the epicentre.

# EARTHQUAKE PROOFING BUILDINGS



# DESTRUCTION

- Vibrations destroy buildings
- Liquefaction turns the ground into a quicksand.
- Houses and roads are swept away, valleys blocked and rivers dammed by avalanches and landslides.
- Fires cause major damage in urban areas and the problem is made worse by the lack of water due to burst mains.
- Earthquakes that have their focus under oceans generate large seismic waves called tsunami.



[HTTPS://WWW.EARTHQUAKEAUTHORITY.COM/BLOG/2020/HOW-EARTHQUAKES-CAUSE-DAMAGE-DESTRUCTION](https://www.earthquakeauthority.com/blog/2020/how-earthquakes-cause-damage-destruction)

# IMPACTS OF EARTHQUAKES

- short term (immediate) impacts.
- long term impacts.
- social impacts (on people).
- economic impacts (on the wealth).
- environmental impacts (on the landscape).



	Social impacts	Economic impacts	Environmental impacts
Short term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● People may be killed or injured.</li><li>● Homes may be destroyed.</li><li>● Essential services may be disrupted.</li><li>● Transport and communication links may be disrupted.</li><li>● Water pipes may burst and water supplies may be contaminated</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Shops and businesses are destroyed.</li><li>● Looting may take place.</li><li>● Transport and communications systems are disrupted so trade is difficult.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The built landscape is destroyed.</li><li>● Fires spread due to broken gas pipes.</li><li>● Fires can damage areas of woodland.</li><li>● Landslides may occur.</li><li>● Tsunamis may cause flooding in coastal areas</li></ul>

	Social impacts	Economic impacts	Enviornmental impacts
Long term impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Disease may spread.</li><li>● People have to be re-housed, sometimes in refugee camps.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The cost of rebuilding is high.</li><li>● Investment in the area is focused only on repairing the damage caused by the earthquake.</li><li>● Income is lost.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Important natural and human landmarks may be lost.</li></ul>

# IN CLASS ACTIVITY

You are a county councillor or emergency services worker.

- think of the impacts from the perspective of the character/role they are playing?
- Write down your answers.
- Discuss with the person next to you.
- Discuss with the class group.

# ACTIVITY - PROJECT

Pick an earthquake that has occurred over the last 100 years. Answer the following:

- When did this earthquake occur?
- Where did this earthquake occur?
- Why did this earthquake occur?
- What was the measurement of this earthquake?
- Look at the impacts this specific earthquake had- look at this under the headings short term and long term impacts in relation to social, economic and environmental impacts.

# KEY TERMS

- Population density- the amount of people per square kilometre.
- Geology- the study of rocks.
- Liquefaction- the process of making something liquid.
- Tsunami- a large tidal wave caused by underwater activity such as an earthquake.
- Contamination- polluting or poisoning something ie. Water.

# TSUNAMIS AND THE CAUSES OF

**Lesson four**

# LEARNING OUTCOME

- Understand what is meant by a tsunamis and the causes of
- Develop an understanding of international examples of tsunamis and the effects.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TSUNAMIS



# WHAT IS A TSUNAMI

Tsunami is the Japanese for "harbor wave." It is a large wave caused by movements in Earth's crust, which move ocean water. It can be caused by an earthquake, volcanic eruption or a submarine slide.

# TSUNAMIS CAUSED BY EARTHQUAKES

- Occurs at convergent or transform boundaries or faults, by sudden release of energy stored in the earth's crust.
- Earthquakes are a common form of tsunami

<https://youtu.be/ILlyfwDwJV5>

# TSUNAMI CAUSED BY VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

Tsunami can be initiated by volcanic eruptions are less common. They can occur as a result of:

- collapse of coastal or underwater volcanoes which can result in massive landslides.
- pyroclastic flows falling into the ocean displacing the water.
- a caldera volcano underwater collapsing after an eruption causing overlying water to drop suddenly.

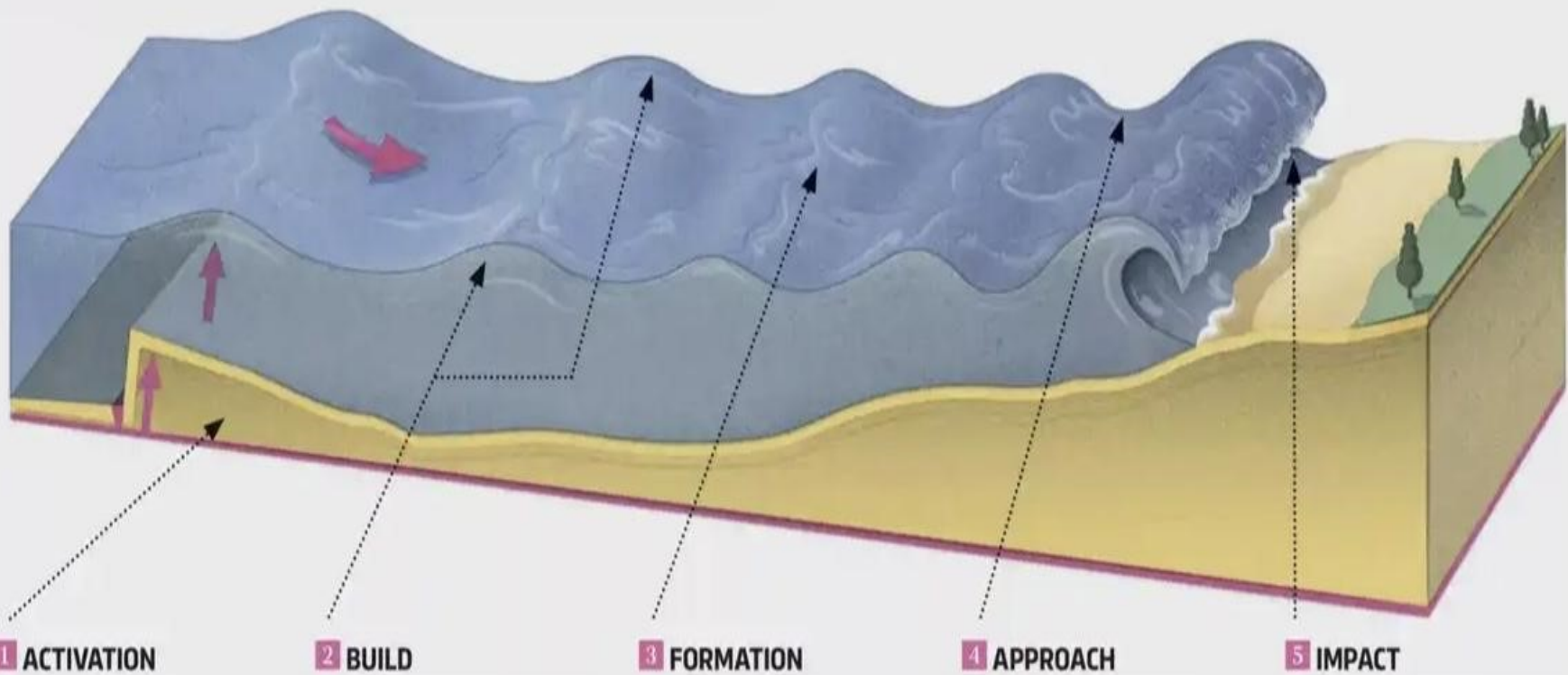
<https://youtu.be/AXHN14IHTLY>

# TSUNAMI CAUSED BY UNDERWATER SLIDES

Landslides can occur on the seafloor- known as submarine slides. Areas of the seafloor that are steep and loaded with sediment, such as the edge of the continental slope, are more prone to underwater slides or submarine landslides.

When submarine slides occur (perhaps after a nearby earthquake) a large mass of sand, mud and gravel can move down the slope. This movement will draw the water down and may cause a tsunami that will travel across the ocean.

<https://youtu.be/feXCifafJYo>



[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEFOCUS.COM/PLANET-EARTH/HOW-DO-TSUNAMIS-FORM/](https://www.sciencefocus.com/planet-earth/how-do-tsunamis-form/)

# DESTRUCTION

Two phases of destruction when a tsunami hits:

- First as the wave crashes onto coastal areas.
- Second as the water from the wave pulls back into the sea bringing with it large amounts of debris from the land.
- Tsunamis can range in size from 1 or two metres to Mega-tsunamis hundreds of metres high. The largest tsunamis form when a large object or mass enters the water i.e. Landslide.

Information From:

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/geoscience-topics/natural-hazards/Pages/Tsunami.aspx>

# TSUNAMI STATISTICS

- The largest tsunami ever recorded was in Lituya Bay, Alaska and measured 520 metres tall and was as a result of a massive landslide falling into Lituya Bay.
- Spanish Arch in Galway was very badly damaged by a tsunami as a result of a massive earthquake that occurred just off the Lisbon coast in Portugal in 1775.

Information:

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/geoscience-topics/natural-hazards/Pages/Tsunami.aspx>

# ACTIVITY - PROJECT

Pick a tsunami that has occurred over the last 30 years. Answer the following.

- When did this tsunami occur?
- Where did this tsunami occur?
- What caused this tsunami to occur?
- What were the short term and long term impacts of this tsunami on the area.  
Look at this under the headings social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Research early warning systems and the part they have to play in reducing impacts.



# KEY TERMS

- Submarine slides – Mass movement of sediment across the continental shelf into deeper water
- Continental shelf – Area of sea bed around a land mass where the water is relatively shallow.
- Pyroclastic flow – A fast moving flow of volcanic material ie. Lava, ash, rock bombs etc
- Caldera – Volcanic crater caused by the collapse of the mouth of a volcano
- Mega Tsunamis – Very large wave caused by displacement of water in the ocean – waves of 50m + at source.

# THE IMPACT OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN IRELAND.

**Lesson five**

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand how seismic activity is measured in Ireland.
- Understand the historical impact of seismic activity off the Irish coast- examples of earthquakes that have affected coastal landforms.
- Understand the ways a tsunami could possibly happen off the coast of Ireland in the future.
- Understand the impacts of a tsunami in the cork harbour and coastal area.

# DISCUSSION POINT

- Is Ireland affected by seismic activity.

# RESEARCH OF SEISMOLOGY IN IRELAND

- IMARL deep ocean listening:
- <https://imarl.ie/about/>

Joint partnership with:

- Science foundation Ireland
- DIAS–Dublin Institute of Advanced studies
- Geographical survey Ireland
- iCRAG–Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geoscience.

# ACTIVITY

Go to the website on the previous page and research the sensors in on the ocean floor.

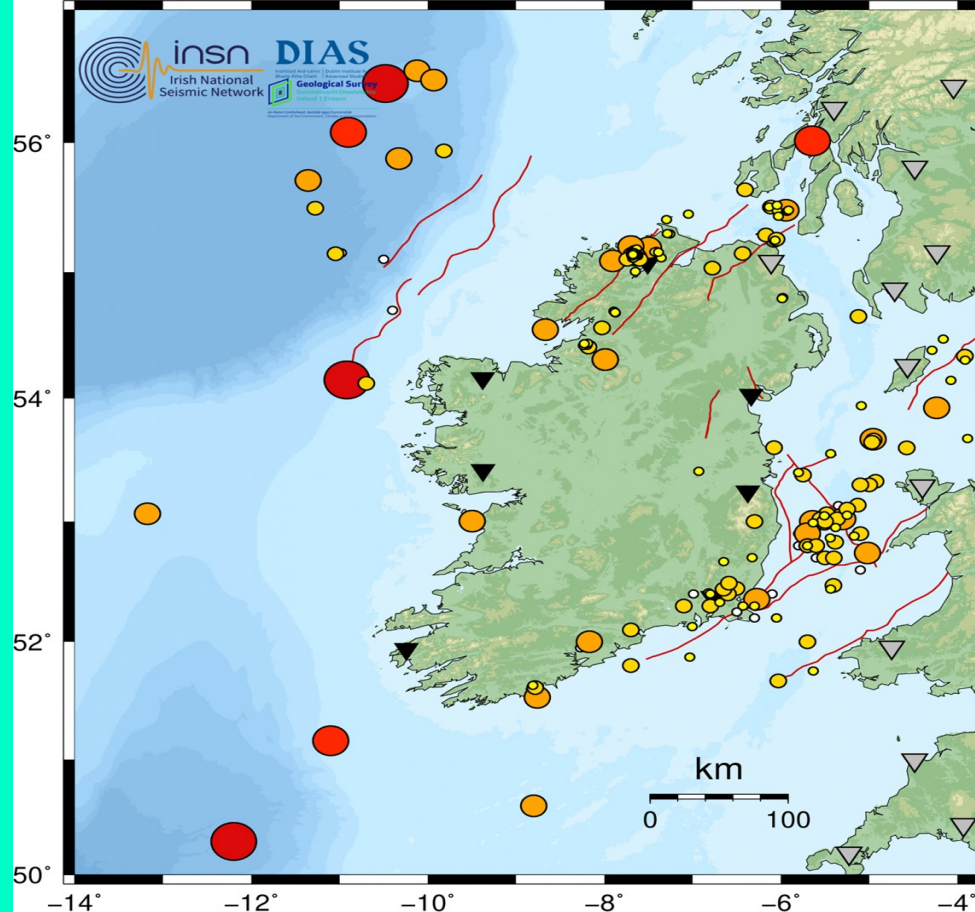
It comprises broadband Ocean Bottom Seismographs (OBS), broadband acoustic sensors, and sensors for measuring absolute water pressure & temperature at the ocean floor. A system capable of detecting tsunamis also forms part of the infrastructure.

To see the most recent earthquakes detected in Ireland the Irish National Seismic Network:

<https://www.insn.ie/>

# STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE RECORDED IN IRELAND

- Ireland's biggest ever recorded quake hit in 1984, when an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 caused minor structural damage on the east coast.
- The epicentre of the quake was about 10 miles off the coast of Anglesea in Wales and measured over 5.5 on the Richter scale.
- <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2019/0617/1055768-east-coast-earthquake/>



The map shows the epicentre locations of all earthquakes reported by the INSN since 1980

[https://www.insn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/earthquakes.1980\\_to\\_2021-11-16.csv](https://www.insn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/earthquakes.1980_to_2021-11-16.csv)

**Detected Seismicity 1980 to Present (last updated: 2021-11-16)**

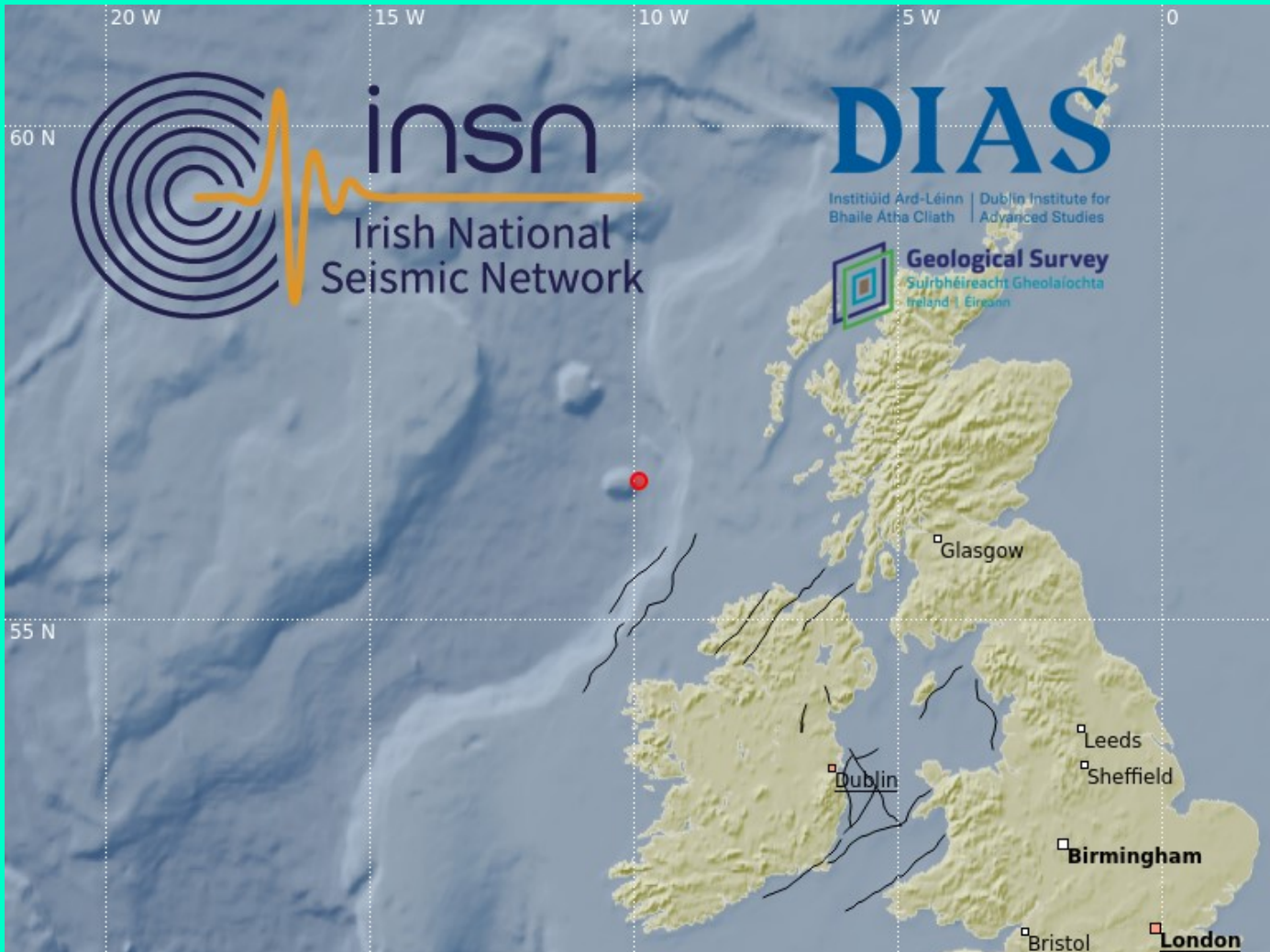
- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ○ M Undefined   | ● M < 1.0       | ● 1.0 ≤ M < 2.0 |
| ● 2.0 ≤ M < 3.0 | ● 3.0 ≤ M < 4.0 | ● 4.0 ≤ M < 5.0 |
| — Major Faults  | ▼ INSN Stations | ▽ BGS Stations  |



# INSTANCES OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY OF THE IRISH COAST

- Irish National Seismic Network
- Monitor seismic activity around the Irish coast.
- Most recent: 31st of March 2021—a magnitude M2.6 earthquake occurred in the Rockall Trough, approximately 210 km north-northwest of Ireland.

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geohazards/activities/Pages/Irish-National-Seismic-Network.aspx>



<https://www.insn.ie/2021-03-31-m2-6-m2-3-rockall-trough/>

# FURTHER INSTANCES

Some examples of predicted inundated (flooded) areas in Galway/Dunmore East are visible in this paper:

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3263/10/6/226/htm>

# TSUNAMI ACTIVITY IN IRELAND

# EVENTS THAT COULD CAUSE A TSUNAMI OFF THE IRISH COAST

- Earthquake activity example 1755 Lisbon earthquake
- Volcanic eruptions
- Submarine slides- storegga slides

# HISTORICAL IMPACT OF TSUNAMIS OFF THE IRISH COAST

- Lisbon earthquake of 1755 and 1761
- Storegga Slide

# LISBON EARTHQUAKE 1755

- When : November 1st 1755
- Where: 200 km south of Lisbon.
- Why: area lies close to a major fault line separating Eurasian and North African plates.
- Lasted: 9 minutes
- Estimated intensity: 8.5–9 on the Richter scale.
- Tsunami affected: Portugal, Spain, Brazil, North Africa, Britain and Ireland.
- March 30th 1761– earthquake felt in cork city followed by a second tsunami
- Animation: <https://youtu.be/Ht0W2E9g8cA>



Image shows  
Tsunami travel time  
chart for the 1755  
Lisbon tsunami.  
Red color shows  
the area within 1-  
hour propagation  
time.

<http://www.deepmapscork.ie/past-to-present/climate/1755-lisbon-earthquake-tsunami-west-cork-coast/>



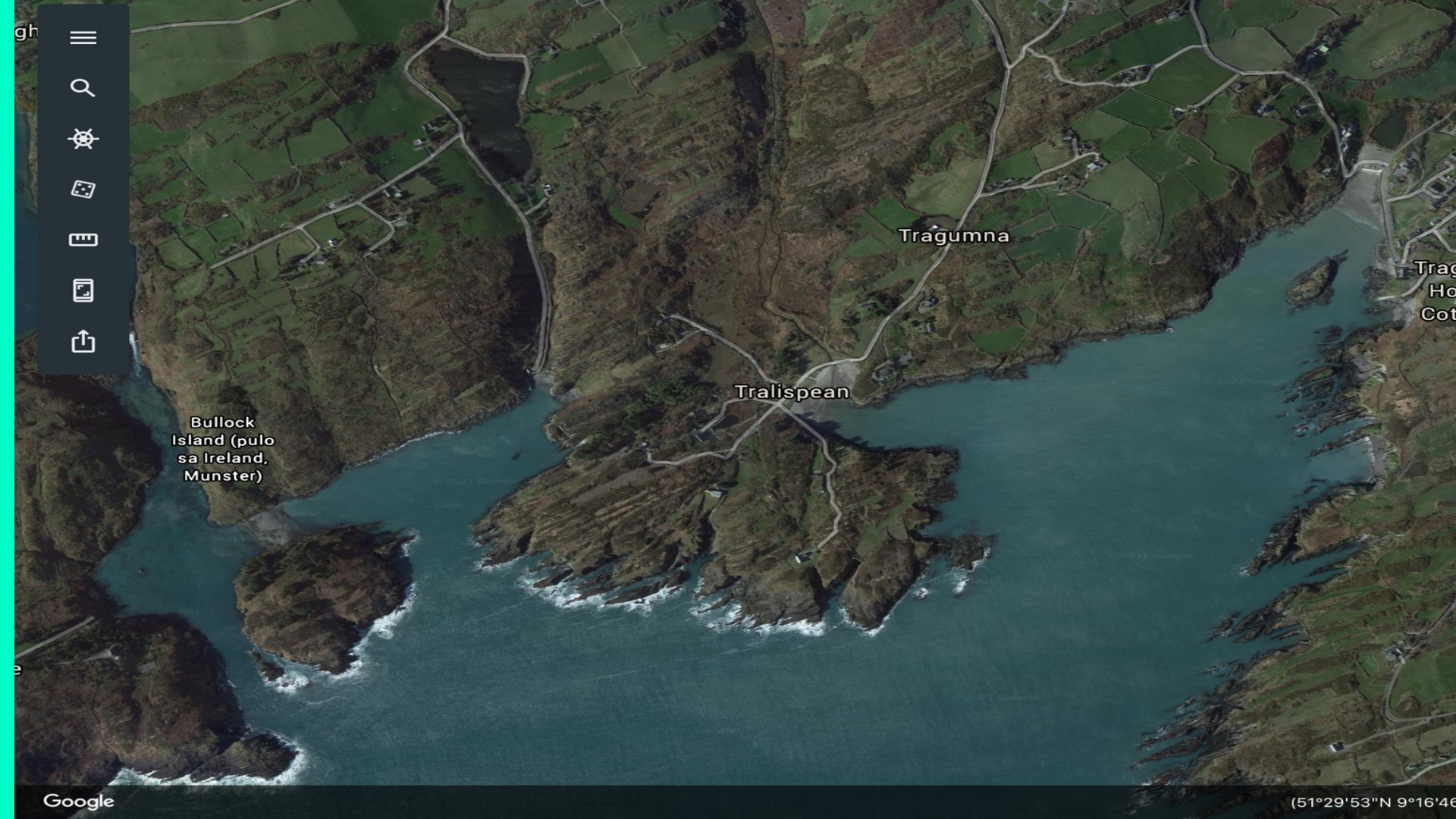
# IMPACTS OF A TSUNAMI ON THE SOUTH COAST OF IRELAND

<https://youtu.be/zqcdeMmJy1E>

Record of a tsunami event in west cork at Trailspean Bay.

[https://youtu.be/N0lN\\_f4JijE](https://youtu.be/N0lN_f4JijE)

Deposits left by tsunami in west cork.



Bullock  
Island (pulo  
sa Ireland,  
Munster)

Tralispean

Trá gumna

Trá  
Ho  
Cot



# IMPACT ON THE CORK COAST LINE AND FURTHER INLAND

- The wave travelled up the estuary of the Bandon River from Kinsale as far as Innishannon, completely destroying the bridge here.

[https://www.valleyrovers.com/news\\_detail/368057/](https://www.valleyrovers.com/news_detail/368057/)

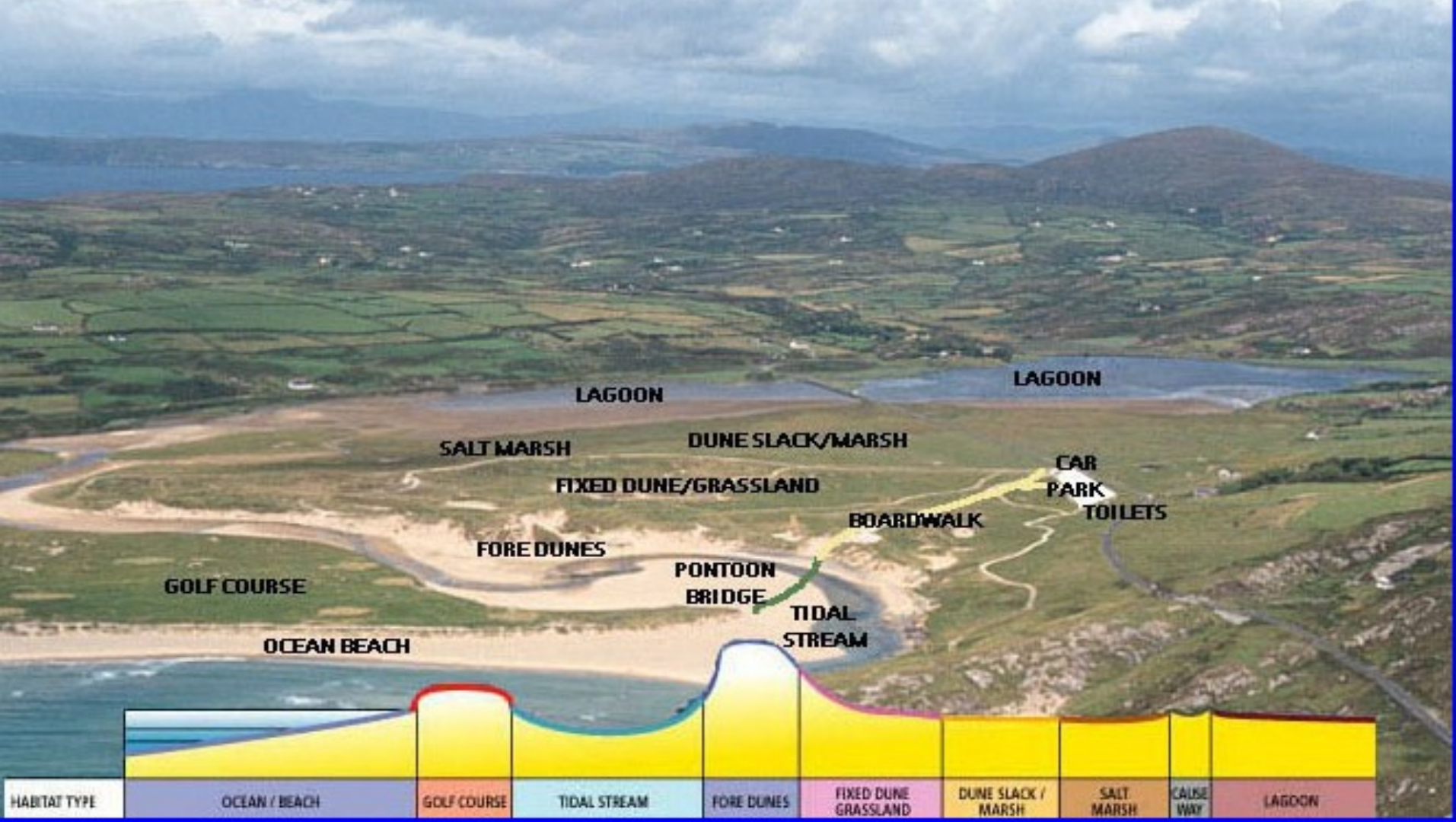


# BARLEY COVE

- Lisbon earthquake 1755 created a tsunami 4.5 metres high when it reached Barleycove Bay in West Cork.
- This dramatically changed the shape of the bay , creating the dunes we can still see but also saltmarshes and grasslands which provide habitats for plants and animals.





















# STOREGGA SLIDE

<https://youtu.be/No mlo8X58PY>

- The Storegga slides collapsed 290km of continental shelf with a total volume of about 3,500 cubic kilometres of debris approximately 8200 years ago.
- Ireland affected by waves 3–5 m in height.

# HOW DO WE KNOW

- Primary and secondary sources.
- A letter from 1755 describes the arrival of the tsunami in Kinsale:
  - ...a large body of water suddenly poured into the harbour ... the successive risings and fallings of the water continued about 10 minutes... By different accounts received here the water was affected in the same manner along the coast, to the westwards of this harbour.

Source: <http://www.deepmapscork.ie/past-to-present/climate/1755-lisbon-earthquake-tsunami-west-cork-coast/>

# MONITORING OF TSUNAMIS OFF THE IRISH COAST

- Unlikely to happen.
- 1755 and 1761 Lisbon earthquake proves it is possible.
- Ireland has yet to establish a 24/7 national warning centre, we receive tsunami messages from the French (CENALT) and Portuguese (IPMA) warning centres, which are accredited Tsunami Service Providers of NEAMTWS, via the Global Telecommunications System through Met Eireann.
- GSI installed a tsunami sea level gauge on behalf of the EU JRC on Inishmore in 2019.
- The DIAS iMARL project includes sea-floor seismometers and a tsunami pressure gauge, funded by SFI and supported by GSI.

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geohazards/activities/Pages/Tsunami-Hazard-and-Response.aspx>

# WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A TSUNAMI WAS TO HIT CORK HARBOUR

- Likely worst case tsunamis around Ireland would be similar to the level of coastal flooding seen during storm surges, but with greater momentum and less time to react. <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geohazards/activities/Pages/Tsunami-Hazard-and-Response.aspx>

# ACTIVITY

This is the final aspect of the project.

Students are asked to look at tsunamis that have effected the Irish coast.

Look at:

- When they occurred.
- What was the cause.
- What was the impact on the Irish coastline.

Students are then asked to research the Irish tsunami action plan.

Students are asked to look at other factors that may cause a tsunami on the Irish coast and what might be the impact on their local area.

Students will then be allocated class time to present their individual or group project.