

Challenge Activity



eophysics of Earthquakes

Google Earth



1. Begin by starting up the program Google Earth on your computer. It will be located under your list of programs (second column).
2. Type in your home address in the empty box at the top left corner of the program and hit the return button. Google Earth will then begin zooming into your home address.
3. Play with the buttons at the bottom of the screen panel to zoom in and out, rotate, and explore different places that you are familiar with.
4. Next, you will plot earthquakes that occurred over the past week. Enter the following website in your web browser: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsww/catalogs/>

Scroll down to the section marked “KLM files” and click on either link to download a file:

[M 1+ earthquakes, past seven days \(colored by age\)](#)

[M 1+ earthquakes, past seven days \(colored by depth\)](#)

5. Now go back to Google Earth and open the file you just downloaded using the “File” --> “Open” options at the top of the menu bar. Your earthquake file should load and by zooming in, you should be able to investigate the earthquakes (circles) around the world.

6. What do the different colors of circles represent?

Red?

Orange?

Yellow?

7. Now explore 3 different areas of the world and record your observations:

Location #1.

Region/Country/Plate Boundary _____

Major cities _____

Largest earthquake magnitude in the past week _____

Most recent earthquake (time from present) in the past week _____

Anything interesting that you notice? (“No” is NOT an acceptable answer!)

Location #2.

Region/Country/Plate Boundary _____

Major cities _____

Largest earthquake magnitude in the past week _____

Most recent earthquake (time from present) in the past week _____

Anything interesting that you notice? (“No” is NOT an acceptable answer!)

Location #3.

Region/Country/Plate Boundary _____

Major cities _____

Largest earthquake magnitude in the past week _____

Most recent earthquake (time from present) in the past week _____

Anything interesting that you notice? (“No” is NOT an acceptable answer!)
