

EARTH ACTIVITY: Make an Earthquake

The Earth's crust is made of many large pieces that fit together like a puzzle. Each piece is called a **plate**. The cracks between the plates are called **faults**. Earthquakes are the result of plates moving against each other along the fault. The movement can be in different directions. This experiment shows what can happen when plates move.

Things you will need:

- Two wooden blocks
- A ruler
- Modeling clay
- Newspaper



1. Line up the blocks beside each other.



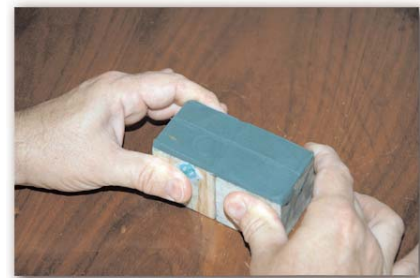
2. Spread newspaper and flatten out some clay to about 1/4 inch thick. (.5 mm)



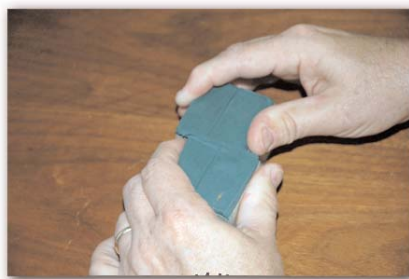
3. Push and trim a piece of clay onto the top of the blocks. Then, use the ruler and a pencil to scribe a line in the clay to represent a road.



4. Hold each block in your hands. You are about to begin the earthquake.



5. Slide the blocks sideways. Do it slowly and then quickly, resetting the clay each time. Write down what you see.



6. Slide one block upwards. Do it slowly and then quickly resetting the clay each time. Write down what you see.



What happened to the road when the blocks moved sideways, fast and slow?

What happened to the road when a block moved upwards, fast and slow?
