Geography Knowledge Organiser
Earthquakes and Volcanoes

Earthquake: the shaking and vibration of the Earth's crust due to the movement of tectonic plates.

Magnitude: the number given to show the size and power of an earthquake.

Epicentre: the central point of the origin of the earthquake.

Richter scale: developed by Charles Richter in 1935, it is a scale of levels from 0–10 used to measure the strength of an earthquake. Each level is ten times more than the level before it so level 4 is ten times greater than level 3.

Tectonic plates: sections of the Earth's crust which are like huge jigsaw pieces.

Fault line: a crack in the Earth's surface where the risk of earthquakes can be higher.

Aftershock: a smaller earthquake that happens after, and because of, a larger earthquake.

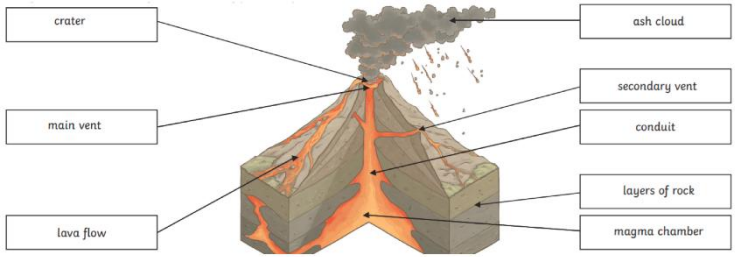
Tremor: seismic activity that measures less than 4.0 on the Richter scale.

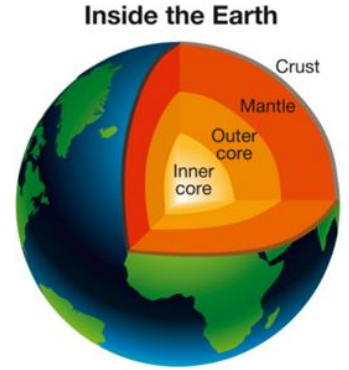
Volcano: an opening in Earth's crust that allows molten rock from beneath the crust to reach the surface.

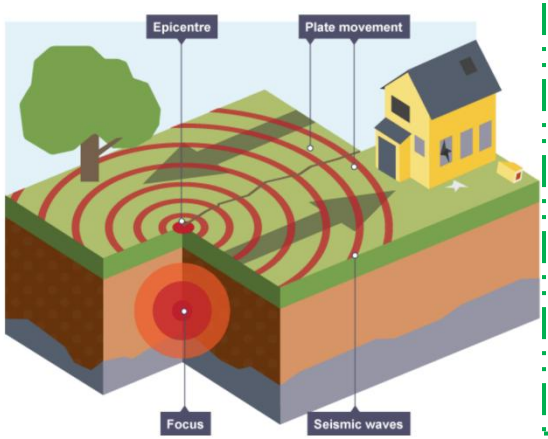
Magma: composed of molten rock and is stored in the Earth's crust.

Lava: magma that reaches Earth's surface through a volcano.

Volcanoes are made when pressure builds up inside the earth. This affects the earth's crust causing magma to sometimes erupt through it.







Earthquakes

- Earthquakes are caused when the Earth's **tectonic plates** suddenly move.
- Most earthquakes occur near the tectonic plate boundaries.
- Earthquakes can cause lots of damage to roads, buildings and property.
- The power of an earthquake is measured using the **Richter Scale**.

The Earths crust is made up of different pieces, called **tectonic plates**. These plates fit together like a jigsaw and are **moving** at a rate of a few centimetres a year, in different directions and at different speeds.

