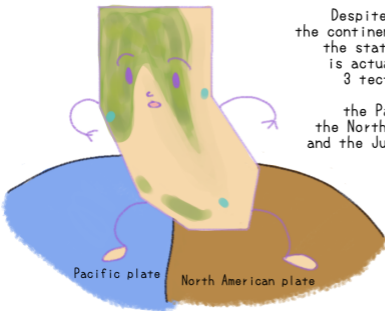


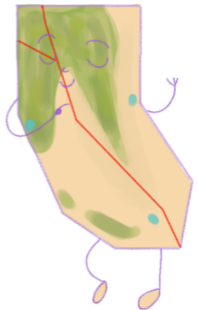
Despite being part of the continental United States, the state of California is actually located on 3 tectonic plates:

the Pacific plate, the North American plate, and the Juan de Fuca plate.



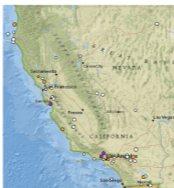
The border where these plates meet is called the San Andreas Fault.

The San Andreas Fault was formed due to friction caused by movement between the plates that make up California.





The friction caused by the movement between the plates also has another effect on the state: it causes earthquakes.



Here is a map of major earthquakes that have occurred in California over the last 50 years. Note that they're concentrated around the San Andreas Fault.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), thousands of earthquakes that are too small to be felt occur along the San Andreas Fault every year.

The movement at the fault, however, also makes California vulnerable to large earthquakes.



These are pictures from the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco



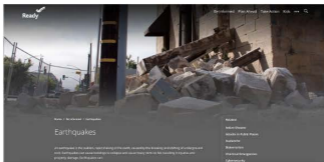
Fortunately, scientists have successfully been able to predict where large earthquakes will occur along the San Andreas Fault and found that large earthquakes tend to occur at 150-year intervals.



Luckily for us in the SF Bay Area, the chance of us getting hit by another large earthquake isn't as high as other areas since our last big earthquake only a little over a century ago.

However, just because our chances of being hit by a large quake is lower than other areas doesn't mean that we shouldn't be prepared in case of an earthquake.

It's important for ordinary citizens to be prepared in case of an emergency rather than relying solely on first responders.



The Department of Homeland Security's ready.gov website has some great tips for what to do in case of an earthquake and how to prepare for one beforehand.

Having an emergency kit is a must, but ready.gov also recommends some items that aren't immediately obvious such as:



whistles



a battery operated radio



extra clothes and shoes

Other ways to prepare for an earthquake include:



securing wall hangings
& wall-mounted furniture



place heavy or breakable
items on lower shelves



create an evacuation plan

Remember to be prepared
in case of emergencies
and stay safe!



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