**Causes of earthquakes – case study Haiti earthquake 2010**

There are two key areas to research and understand in this section – the general causes of earthquakes and the causes of the Haiti earthquake 2010.

[](http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?q=haiti+earthquake+facts&start=357&hl=en&safe=active&sa=X&tbo=d&biw=1024&bih=686&tbm=isch&tbnid=gX5OWdeYIF054M:&imgrefurl=http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2010/0121/Haiti-earthquake-Why-the-Caribbean-is-a-mini-ring-of-fire&docid=4AfUSEuwkUjvtM&imgurl=http://www.csmonitor.com/var/ezflow_site/storage/images/media/map-caribbean-plate/7252733-1-eng-US/Map-Caribbean-Plate_full_600.jpg&w=600&h=286&ei=Hx74UNXKKZT44QTM1oFA&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=418&vpy=183&dur=304&hovh=155&hovw=325&tx=96&ty=76&sig=109834184147114615378&page=17&tbnh=131&tbnw=274&ndsp=21&ved=1t:429,r:63,s:300,i:193)

Key questions to answer in this section –

1. **What are the main causes of earthquakes?**
2. **What were the main causes of the Haiti earthquake 2010?**

You **MUST** know and complete the following –

* The **plate boundaries** at which earthquakes occur – **Constructive, Destructive, Conservative and Collision plate boundaries.** You will need a fully labelled diagram of each one and you will need to describe each plate boundary. You should also include a world map that shows you where these plate boundaries are located.
* The main **physical processes** that occur along these plate boundaries - what makes them move and how they move, what happens when they move?
* What is meant by the **magnitude** of an earthquake and be very clear that this can vary – give examples of different magnitudes of earthquakes (including Haiti 2010)
* How earthquake magnitude is measured and recorded on the **Richter Scale and the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale** – you will need to say what each one is, how they are different from one another and a diagram of each one.
* The **location of Haiti** in the world and in the Caribbean. You will need maps to show this and a brief description of its location. Your Haiti map should show the **epicentre** of the **2010 earthquake** and the plate names and boundaries that triggered the 2010 earthquake. Make sure you also mention the focus of the earthquake and what impact this had on Haiti in 2010.

**Make sure you understand all the earthquake terms you come across in this section.**

[](http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?q=haiti+earthquake+facts&hl=en&safe=active&sa=X&tbo=d&biw=1024&bih=686&tbm=isch&tbnid=vYDHX10qnHe6gM:&imgrefurl=http://www.haitiearthquake.xploreabout.com/&docid=Wr8eNWMxv1uZ4M&imgurl=http://www.haitiearthquake.xploreabout.com/images/haiti_earthquake_01.jpg&w=600&h=600&ei=5hv4UPbYL8ni4QT6iIEI&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=2&vpy=228&dur=2735&hovh=225&hovw=225&tx=68&ty=116&sig=109834184147114615378&page=2&tbnh=146&tbnw=146&start=20&ndsp=23&ved=1t:429,r:38,s:0,i:201)

You will need to research this information from the key websites provided and any others you may come across.

**General websites to aid your research on causes of earthquakes**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/natural_hazards/earthquakes_rev1.shtml>

[http://www.geography-site.co.uk/pages/physical/earth/**cause**.html](http://www.geography-site.co.uk/pages/physical/earth/cause.html)

<http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/eqscience.php>

[www.ga.gov.au/hazards/**earthquakes**/earthquake-basics/**causes**.html](http://www.ga.gov.au/hazards/earthquakes/earthquake-basics/causes.html)

<http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake>

[www.fostercity.org/faqs/earthquake-**cause**.cfm](http://www.fostercity.org/faqs/earthquake-cause.cfm)

**Causes of Haiti earthquake 2010 websites**

<http://www.geographyalltheway.com/recent-geography/haitian-earthquake.htm>

[www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/topics/**haiti**\_**earthquake**.html](http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/topics/haiti_earthquake.html)

**Plate boundaries websites**

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography/tectonics/revise-it/plate-boundaries>

<http://www.sln.org.uk/geography/schools/blythebridge/gcserevisionplatestheory.htm>

**Measuring and recording Magnitude of earthquakes**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richter_magnitude_scale>

<http://schools.matter.org.uk/content/Seismology/richterscale.html>

<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/UPSeis/intensity.html>

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/topics/mercalli.php>

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/shaking/mmi/>

Good luck with this! Remember that if you are not sure about anything just ask your geography teacher – we are here to help!!!