Vocabulary: Earthquakes 2 – Determination of Epicenter

Vocabulary

- Body wave – a seismic wave that travels through Earth's interior.
- Earthquake – shaking and vibration of Earth's surface.
  - Most earthquakes are caused by the sudden movement of Earth's crust along a *fault*. Other earthquakes are caused by volcanic activity.
  - Earthquakes release energy in the form of *seismic waves*.
- Epicenter – the point on Earth's surface directly above the *focus*, or origin, of an earthquake.
- Fault – a fracture in Earth's crust where the rocks on either side have moved.
- Focus – the point within Earth where an earthquake originates. Also known as the *hypocenter*.
- P wave – one of two types of body waves that are produced by earthquakes.
  - P waves are the fastest seismic waves, and will arrive at a location before other seismic waves.
  - As a P wave passes through a material, the material moves back and forth parallel to the direction that the wave is moving.
  - The "P" in P wave stands for "primary."
- S wave – one of two types of body waves that are produced by earthquakes.
  - S waves are slower than P waves.
  - As an S wave passes through a material, the material moves up and down perpendicular to the direction that the wave is moving.
  - The "S" in S wave stands for "secondary."
- Seismic wave – a vibration produced by an earthquake.
- Seismogram – a graphical record of ground vibrations. Seismograms are made by instruments called *seismographs*.
- Seismograph – an instrument that measures and records ground vibrations.