

Tendern Heart High School

Section 33 B, Chandigarh

NAME: Vamun Satholtra

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SUBJECT: Geography

CLASS: IX

Earthquakes

Continue

World Distribution of Earthquakes

(1) Circum Pacific Belt

- In this belt intense earthquake activity takes place.
- This belt extends from Alaska to Kumile, Japan, Mariana and Philippine trench in the west. Beyond this, this belt is divided into two branches, one towards Indonesian trench and other towards the Kermadec-Tonga trench.
- The eastern side of this belt extends from Alaska in the north to Chile in South.
- About 66% of total earthquakes of the World are recorded in this belt.

(2) Mid-Atlantic Belt:

- This belt extends along mid-atlantic ridge and the islands situated along it.
- Seafloor spreading causes earthquake here.
- Shallow focus earthquakes are recorded here.
- The Rift Valley of Africa and Red Sea are extension of this belt.

(3) Mid-continental Belt:

- It extends along Alpine mountains, Rocky Mountains, caucasus, Himalayas, Tibet, Tien Shan, Altai etc.
- It experiences shallow focus earthquakes.
- In this belt 21% of earthquakes are recorded.

(4) Intra plate Seismicity:

- Here shallow focus earthquakes are experienced.
- It occurs in Peninsular India, western U.S.A, East Africa etc

Consequences of Earthquakes

(A) Loss of Property

Earthquake causes damage to buildings and many other concrete properties, that ultimately lead to Loss of property. This hampers economic condition of the affected area.

(B) Loss to Life

Earthquake kills the people trapped in buildings, houses, offices etc and it also leads to casualties. This results in loss of life and Human Resource.

(C) Landslide

Earthquake causes landslides in mountains. In slopes of mountains, the soil moves to the downhill leading to devastation.

(D) Tsunamis:

When earthquakes are caused in the ocean floor, the waves of Earthquake create big sea waves known as Tsunami waves. It causes lots of destruction.

(E) Flash Floods:

Earthquake develops fissures in dams and embankments that lead to Flash Floods.

Constructive Effects

- Earthquake results in formation of Geysers or Hot Springs.
- Earthquake results in formation of bays.
- Earthquake results in emergence of new land.