



Earthquake Myths

Key Points:

- To dispel earthquake myths
- To help students better understand earthquakes

Objective:

Earthquakes are unpredictable and that's very frightening. As human beings we try to find a pattern to these scary events to make ourselves feel that we have more control. The more kids (and grown-ups!) understand about earthquakes the less anxiety they have.

Procedure:

1. Have the students identify some earthquake myths or tell them about some myths
(<http://www.scec.org/education/eqbasics/myths.html>)
2. Start a dialogue. Why do people believe these myths? Is there any truth to them?
3. Have them interview some friends or family members about earthquake myths. Do their parents believe these myths? Is one myth more common than another?
4. Have them do some on-line research and see if they can find earthquake myths from other parts of the world. Are their myths the same as ours? Why or why not?

Resources:

SCEC- Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country-Myths

<http://www.scec.org/education/eqbasics/myths.html>

<http://www.scec.org/education/eqbasics/eqcountry.html>

USGS- Earthquakes for Kids & Grown-ups!

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/4kids/>

Earthquake Myths and Folklore

<http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/public/myths.shtml>