

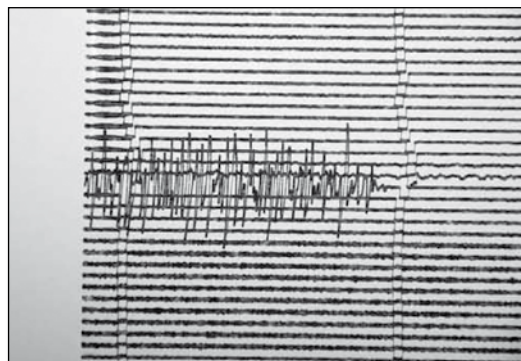
# Earthquakes around the world

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scientists measure the magnitude of earthquakes using an instrument called a 'seismometer'. This instrument allows scientists to work out the size of an earthquake by recording ground movement and vibrations caused by the earthquake. These recordings are called 'seismograms'.



**Seismometer**



**Seismogram**

Images courtesy of Geoscience Australia

The magnitude of an earthquake is measured on a scale called the Richter scale, designed by Charles Richter in 1935.

A low value on the Richter scale means the surface of the Earth did not move very much.

A high value on the Richter scale means there was a great deal of movement.

## Earthquakes recorded around the world

How big? Richter scale	How often? (approximately)
Bigger than 10	Never recorded
10	Very rare – Once every 20 years
9	1 every year
8	18 every year
7	120 every year
6	800 every year
5	6,200 every year
4	49,000 every year
3	365,000 every year
Less than 2 (microquakes)	2,920,000 every year

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richter\\_scale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richter_scale) (modified from US Geological Survey)