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Unit 1

The Shaking Earth

A What should you do in an earthquake? Discuss your answer.

Sample

Reading Skill

Finding the unstated main idea

A main idea that is not written out directly is called an unstated main idea. To find an unstated main idea, summarize the details.

B Underline details that show the unstated main idea.

Earthquakes are sudden movements of the earth's surface. During an earthquake, the ground begins to shake violently. An earthquake can cause buildings to fall down and the ground to open up. It can start floods, fires and landslides. It can also cause a tsunami—a very large ocean wave that flows over the coast and destroys everything. The effects can really be catastrophic.

Unstated main idea:

Earthquakes happen when the earth's surface moves suddenly, causing damage to life and property.

Sample

Sample

Reading

C 2 **Read the passage.**

Why the Earth Moves

Earthquakes are sudden movements of the earth's surface that can sometimes have catastrophic effects. During an earthquake, the ground begins to shake violently. An earthquake can cause buildings to fall down and the ground to open up. It can start floods, fires and landslides. It can also cause a tsunami—a very large ocean wave that flows over the coast and destroys everything.

What causes earthquakes? The earth's surface is broken up into large sections called tectonic plates. The plates meet and rub against each other along lines called faults. This rubbing puts a lot of stress on the plates. The plates finally slip against each other, causing the earth's surface to move.

Earthquakes happen all over the world daily. But most of them are too weak to get our attention. The most powerful earthquakes usually happen in places located on major fault lines. They are most likely to happen in countries like Japan, Indonesia, China and the United States.

Seismologists in the United States have tried to predict earthquakes by measuring how often they happen on average in some areas. Those in China do so by observing animals and measuring water levels in wells. There have been some successes with these methods, but not enough for scientists to say that they have definitely found a way to predict earthquakes.

D **Answer the questions.**

1 What can earthquakes start?
2 What are tectonic plates?
3 In which countries are earthquakes most likely to happen?

Practice

E **Write the unstated main idea for each paragraph.**

Paragraph 2

Earthquakes are caused by tectonic plates rubbing slipping against each other.

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 3

TIP Look for details and summarize them using simple words and short sentences.

F **Look at the highlighted words in the passage. Find out what these words mean using the Mini-dictionary on pages 69–72.**

Sample

Integration

G 3 **Read the paragraph. Write the main idea. Then circle the correct answer.**

In [illegible], a big earthquake hit the city of San Francisco in the United States. It was one of the most powerful earthquakes in history. It destroyed nearly 80 percent of the city and many people were killed. Buildings fell down and bridges fell into the water. Almost 300,000 people were left without homes. The cost of the damage was said to be more than $400 million.

Main idea: stated / unstated

H 4 **Listen to the passage about the earthquake in San Francisco. Write the details on a separate piece of paper.**

I **Complete the table. Then tell the class.**

Information from Activity G	Information from Activity H
1 What happened to the buildings and bridges?	1 What caused the huge fires?
2 What happened to the people?	2 Why couldn't firefighters get water to stop the fires?

Sample