



In The News

Current Events in Earth & Space Science

Summaries for the Classroom

7.2 Eastern Turkey Earthquake

A magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck 12 miles northeast of the city of Van in eastern Turkey on Sunday, October 23, 2011. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 12.4 miles and caused strong shaking throughout a broad area, causing significant damage to Van and neighboring towns.

IRIS – Teachable Moment Presentation, Animations and Visualizations

IRIS Recent Earthquake Teachable Moment (including MS PowerPoint presentation)
<http://www.iris.edu/hq/retm>

Articles to Share with Students

Discovery News: Hundreds Feared Dead in Turkey Quake
<http://news.discovery.com/earth/quake-in-eastern-turkey-111023.html>

BBC News: Turkey Earthquake: Survivors Outdoors on Freezing Night
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-15437014>

NPR AUDIO: Powerful Earthquake Strikes Eastern Turkey
<http://www.npr.org/2011/10/23/141633847/powerful-earthquake-strikes-eastern-turkey>

General Information

USGS Magnitude-7.2 Earthquake in Eastern Turkey
http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/earthquake-in-eastern-turkey/

Earthquakes – New York Times Science Topics
<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/earthquakes/index.html>

USGS Did You Feel It? Community Internet Intensity Map

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/dyfi/events/us/b0006bqc/us/index.html>

Poster of the Eastern Turkey Earthquake of 23 October 2011 – Magnitude 7.2

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eqarchives/poster/2011/20111023.php>

Questions for Classroom Discussion

- What is an earthquake? Where are earthquakes most common?
- Describe the difference between the magnitude (Richter Scale) and intensity (Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale) of an earthquake. Why are both of these scales important for learning about an earthquake event?
- How do scientists study earthquakes? Who else is involved in studying and reporting on earthquakes besides scientists?
- Where was the most recent earthquake in the United States? In the world? Which recent earthquake was the closest to you? (*use the website <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/> to answer this question)
- Are earthquakes common or rare in Eastern Turkey? Explain why.
- Could an earthquake occur in Pennsylvania? Explain why/why not.
- Why do you think earthquakes are so difficult to predict?
- Should people be able to live in an area where earthquakes occur? Why/why not?

Tags

Earthquake, natural disaster, Turkey

Big Ideas

From the Earth Science Literacy Principles

- Big Idea 1. Earth scientists use repeatable observations and testable ideas to understand and explain our planet. (1.2, 1.3, 1.4)
- Big Idea 3. Earth is a complex system of interacting rock, water, air, and life. (3.6, 3.7)
- Big Idea 4. Earth is continuously changing. (4.5)
- Big Idea 8. Natural hazards pose risks to humans. (8.1, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8)

From The Big Ideas in Earth and Space Science (ESBD)

- The Geosphere (5)
- The Nature of Science (21, 22, 24)

Compiled October 24, 2011, by L.A. Guertin