

Name _____

Measuring the Mighty Quakes: How Scientists Gauge Earthquake Power

Short Answer Key

1. The Richter scale was developed by Charles F. Richter in 1935.
2. Seismometers detect ground movements by recording the relative motion between a mass and its base caused by seismic waves.
3. The Richter scale is logarithmic and primarily considers seismic wave amplitude, while the Moment Magnitude Scale accounts for fault slip, fault length, and rock rigidity.
4. The Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale uses Roman numerals to describe the effects of an earthquake at specific locations, including how it affects people, buildings, and the Earth's surface.
5. Earthquake early warning systems detect initial P-waves and send alerts to warn people seconds to minutes before stronger shaking arrives, allowing for protective actions and emergency responses.

