

Earthquakes

One summer I was in Las Vegas with my family. Our	11
hotel room was on one of the top floors of a high-rise building.	24
There was a morning of that vacation I will never forget. We	36
woke up around 6 A.M. The building was shaking and	46
swaying back and forth like a pendulum. It was an earthquake.	57
Las Vegas is in the western state of Nevada, which is	68
right next to California. The epicenter was actually in	77
California, but we still felt it over 100 miles away.	87
Earthquakes occur when plates in the Earth's crust rub	96
together. This friction causes the surface to shift back and	106
forth. It also makes huge cracks in the ground, sometimes	116
miles long and several feet deep.	122
Luckily, that summer in Las Vegas, my family got out of	133
the building safely. I was never so scared in all my life. Others	146
in history have not been so fortunate. On Jan. 17, 1995, an	158
earthquake struck in Kobe, Japan. It caused over 6,000 deaths.	168
In 1906, a huge earthquake hit San Francisco, killing over	178
3,000 people and destroying over 25,000 buildings.	185