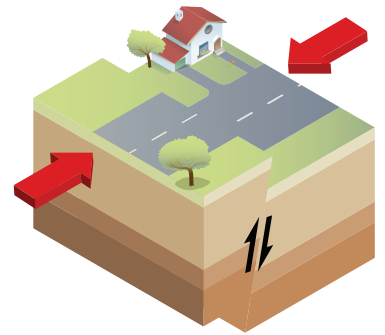


# Earthquake Ready

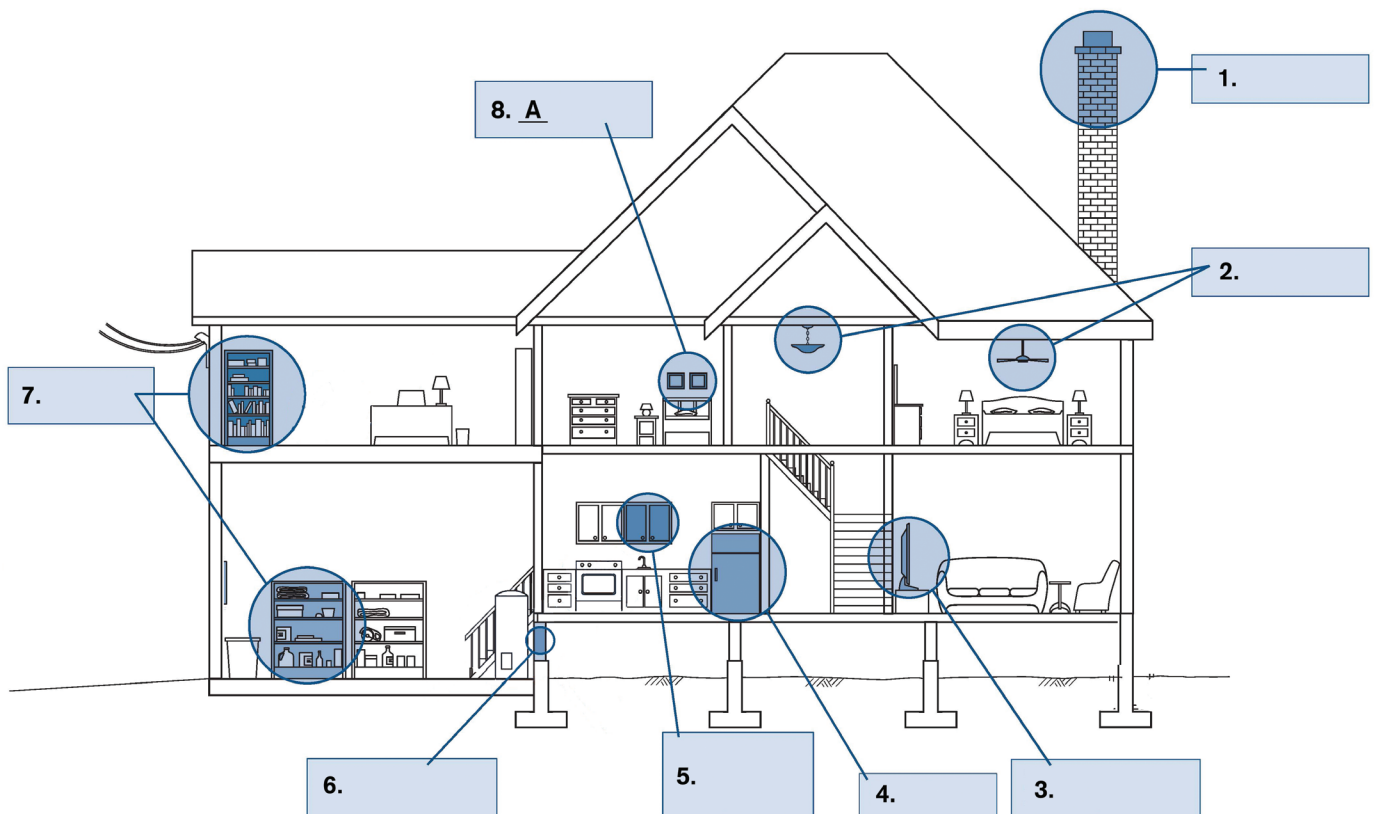
Earthquakes happen when gigantic slabs of rock in the Earth rub together and slide past each other with a sudden jolt. An earthquake usually lasts only a few seconds to a few minutes, but it causes the ground to shake for miles around. The biggest earthquakes last the longest. You may have learned the word *aftershocks*. These too are earthquakes and can happen days, weeks, or even months after the main earthquake is felt.

An earthquake shakes everything in a home. Windows break. Pictures drop from the wall. Books shake off their shelves, and the whole bookcase might even tip over. In fact, the whole house sometimes shakes so much that it falls off its *foundation* – that is the part underneath that holds the house to the ground. Luckily, scientists and engineers have figured out ways to make houses earthquake-ready.

Find out how by matching the descriptions below to the correct places on this house. The first one is filled in to help you get started.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> Pictures and mirrors screwed to the wall.</li> <li><b>B.</b> Bookcases and shelves attached to the wall.</li> <li><b>C.</b> Television screen strapped to the wall.</li> <li><b>D.</b> No ceiling fans or hanging lamps.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>E.</b> Chimney braced to keep it attached to the house.</li> <li><b>F.</b> Roller-blocks to keep appliances from rolling around.</li> <li><b>G.</b> House bolted to the foundation.</li> <li><b>H.</b> Cabinets fastened to keep them from flying open.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|



ANSWERS: 1-E; 2-D; 3-C; 4-F; 5-H; 6-G; 7-B; 8-A

**Be Prepared!** If you feel an earthquake, Drop, Cover, and Hold On! DROP to the floor and, if you can, crawl under a piece of furniture that will COVER and protect you from things that fall. Then HOLD ON to your cover so it can't shake away from you.

**To Learn More** about earthquakes, visit [www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids](http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids) and [www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/earthquakes](http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/earthquakes), and play the earthquake episode of Monster Guard, a free app available at [redcross.org/monsterguard](http://redcross.org/monsterguard). You can also ask an adult to download the free Red Cross Earthquake App at [redcross.org/mobile-apps/earthquake-app](http://redcross.org/mobile-apps/earthquake-app). To learn more about all kinds of emergencies, visit [redcross.org/pillowcase](http://redcross.org/pillowcase).