The Earthquake
Oct. 17, 1989 at 5:04 p.m. PST. The ground shook for 15 seconds
6.9 Magnitude event, along the San Andreas Fault system approx.
8 miles NNE of Santa Cruz in the Santa Cruz mountains
near Loma Prieta peak
66 people died, 2,400 were injured, and more than 10,000
homes were left uninhabitable
The quake caused an estimated $6 billion in damage, equivalent
to $13 billion today

San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge
One person died
A 250-ton section of the upper deck fell onto
the lower deck
The Oakland side of the bridge shifted 7 inches
to the east and sheared the bolts off another section, triggering the collapse

Interstate 880/Cypress Structure
42 people died, many more were injured
Support columns failed on a 1.25-mile stretch of the
double-decker highway, causing the upper deck to crash
down onto the lower deck
The highway was constructed atop filled marshland,
and fell victim to liquefaction during the quake
I-880 was rebuilt in 2001, but moved further farther west
with improved safety and reinforcement construction

The Nation Watched
The earthquake occurred just before the start
of Game 3 of the World Series
The quake interrupted the live telecast from
San Francisco's Candlestick Park, as the nation
watched the earthquake in real time
Loma Prieta is sometimes referred to as the "World Series earthquake"

San Francisco: Marina District
Four people died
11 buildings were destroyed, another 63 structures
deemed too damaged to inhabit
Because the area had been built atop a landfill, liquefaction
occurred, which is when saturated or partially-saturated soil
loses its strength in response to stressors like an earthquake
A natural gas main ruptured, causing a major structure fire;
the fire department relied on the help of civilians to help put it out

Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties
Six people died
40 buildings collapsed, another 31 were damaged
enough to warrant demolition
Liquefaction and landslides damaged highways; twin
bridges over Struve Slough in Watsonville were heavily
damaged

Widespread Devastation
An overview of the Loma Prieta earthquake’s impact on the Bay Area