

CHAPTER

15**SOME NATURAL PHENOMENA****Earthquake:**

Major earthquakes in India,

1993 – Latur, Maharashtra

2005 - Uri and Tangdhar

2001 – Bhuj, Gujarat

What is an earthquake?

“A sudden shaking or trembling of earth which lasts for a very short time”.

It is caused by a disturbance deep inside the earth’s crust.

What causes an earthquake?

Tremors are caused by the disturbance deep down inside the uppermost layer of earth called Crust.

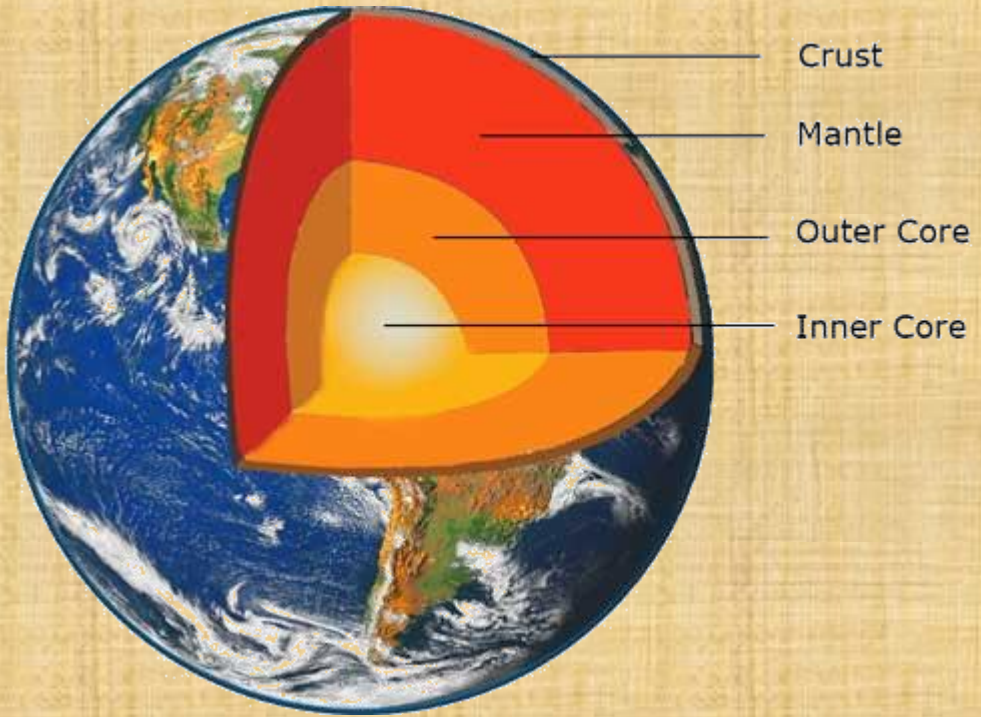


Fig. Structure of Earth

The outer most layer of the earth is not in one piece. It is fragmented. Each fragment is called a **plate**. These plates are in continued motion. When they brush past one another. They cause disturbance in earth's crust, which is called **Earthquakes**.

Since earthquakes are caused by the movement of plates, the boundaries of plates are weak zones where earthquakes are more likely to occur. These zones are called **Seismic Zones** or **Fault zones**.

The power of earthquake is expressed as a reading on Richter scale.

If its value is >7 , it is considered to be destructive.