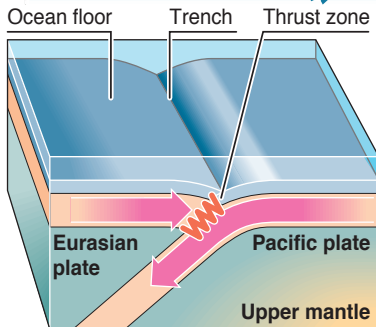
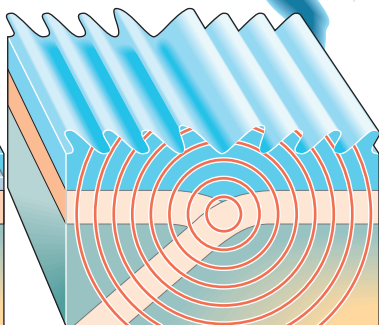


Death toll rises in Japanese earthquake

As many as 200 are feared dead in the earthquake off the northern coast of Japan. The earthquake, which measured 7.8 on the Richter scale, was followed by tidal waves which smashed into fishing villages and fires which swept through flimsy wooden houses



When two tectonic plates collide, one slides or 'subducts' into the earth's crust, pulling the edge of the other plate down and creating friction at the point of contact, or 'thrust zone'



Eventually the friction is overcome and the second plate springs free, causing earthquakes and creating tidal waves that batter nearby land