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Activities

Seismic Waves

Name: _____ Date: _____

Although an earthquake's rocking and rolling seems chaotic, the seismic waves that trigger the shaking arrive in predictable ways. You'll take a close look at these waves in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- Start your exploration of seismic waves with a review of body and surface waves. Continue down the page for information on P, S, Love, and Rayleigh waves.
- Use the information to complete the Workspace table. Click the wave types in the left column of the Workspace table for an animation of the direction of movement of each type of wave.
- Visit USGS to see seismic waves of the Denali earthquake in Alaska in 2002. Watch this animation (courtesy of USGS) to see how P, S, and surface waves moved across the globe from the quake.

Workspace

Type of Wave	Body or Surface Wave?	What it Moves Through	Particle/Ground Movement Direction
P waves			
S waves			
Love waves			
Rayleigh waves			

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