

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are an important physical phenomenon and are crucial to our understanding of the interiors of the earth and the moon. We can directly sample only the outer layers of the earth but seismic waves travel throughout the body of the earth. In this activity you will use an internet activity, Virtual Earthquake, to investigate the process involved in determining the locations and strengths of earthquakes. The activity is part of the Electronic Desktop Program and was developed by California State University, Los Angeles. The program can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.sciencecourseware.org/eec/Earthquake/>

Virtual Earthquake will present (simplified) seismograph type record of a historic earthquake. The program will lead you through the analysis required to find the epicenter (location) and the magnitude on the Richter scale (strength). Be sure to read through the text and follow the instructions carefully. You should go through the tutorials on SP Lag Time and Latitude/Longitude before attempting the Main Activities.

Write a report of what you did and what you learned from the activity using the same format you used for the Astronomy on the Internet lab. Include a printout of the journal from both the SP Lag Time activity and the Longitude/Latitude activity as well as your "Certificate of Completion as a Virtual Seismologist".