

# NEPAL EARTHQUAKES 2015

## RESOURCE 5

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### WHAT HAPPENED?

**On Saturday 25 April 2015, a powerful earthquake hit Nepal. It was the biggest earthquake in Nepal in 80 years, measuring 7.8 out of 10 on the Richter scale.**

The earthquake affected millions of people in Kathmandu, the surrounding towns and remote mountain villages. Even climbers on Mount Everest – the tallest mountain in the world – felt the quake.

In the days that followed there were 120 more smaller earthquakes, known as aftershocks. Then, less than three weeks later, a new earthquake measuring 7.3 in magnitude struck.

### WHAT DAMAGE DID IT CAUSE?

The earthquakes made the ground shake violently. Buildings swayed and were damaged, and many collapsed. Homes, schools, hospitals and buildings were reduced to rubble. People were hurt by falling bricks, tiles and concrete.

Afterwards, 320,000 children were left with no safe place live. Many people had lost everything and struggled to find food and clean water, and roads were damaged, making it hard for rescuers to get through.

### WHY DID THE EARTHQUAKES HAPPEN?

The surface of the Earth is made up of giant tectonic plates that fit together like a jigsaw. The plate that Nepal sits on – called the Indian landmass – is moving north very slowly, at about 4.5cm every year. It meets the Eurasian landmass beneath the Himalayas, where friction causes the rocks to stick.

After years of these plates pushing together, the force builds up, until eventually they move very suddenly. This causes waves of energy to move through the rocks and shake the surface of the ground. This is an earthquake.

**① Why are earthquakes so dangerous for people? Think of 2 ways earthquakes could be dangerous.**

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### WHAT KIND OF HELP DID PEOPLE RECEIVE?

After the earthquakes, thousands of children and their families needed help. Charities, including Save the Children, quickly sent emergency teams and supplies to Nepal, to help families who had lost their homes and children who were injured.

Save the Children helped people build shelters and toilets, and gave families cooking equipment and food supplies. They supported health centres and provided soap and washing supplies to help children stay clean. And they set up temporary learning spaces so children didn't have to miss school.

**2 How did charities like Save the Children help? Think of 3 ways charities helped people in Nepal after the earthquakes.**

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### HOW DID COMMUNITIES RECOVER?

This is a temporary learning centre for primary school children in a village in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal. It was built by Save the Children and people from the community after the school building was badly damaged, so that children didn't have to miss school.



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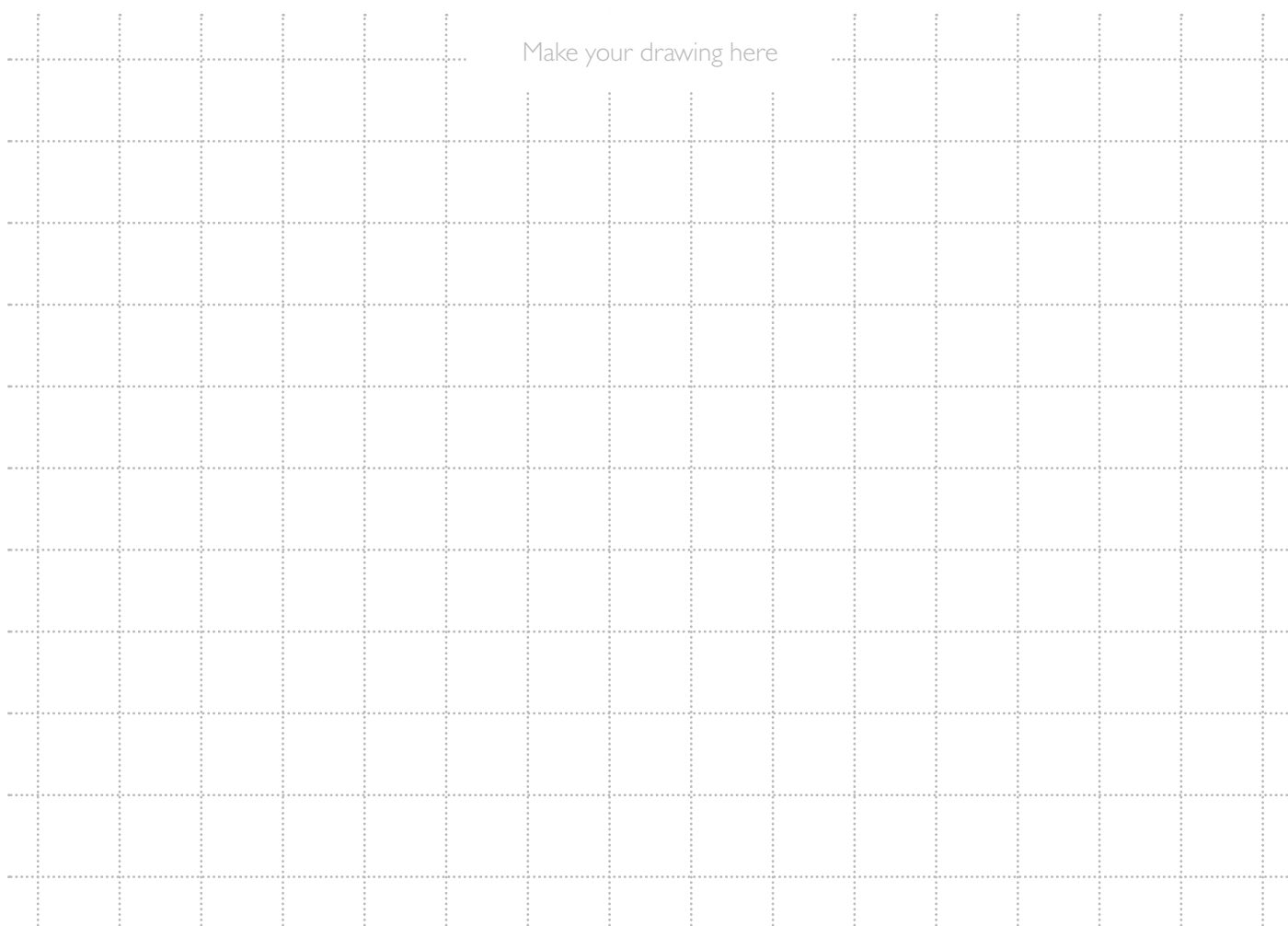
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**3** What would it be like for the village students to go to the temporary learning centre shown in the photo? Think of 10 words to describe how you think they would feel.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

**4** Draw a picture of the learning centre and use your 10 words to make 'feelings labels'.

Make your drawing here



**5** Add annotations to explain what the building is made of and why you think this material has been used.

### JAGAT'S STORY



Eleven-year-old Jagat\* is a student at a temporary learning centre like the one we saw in the last picture.

Save the Children has supplied learning materials and trained teachers to support children who are still feeling scared after the earthquake.

Jagat says he liked going back to school at the temporary learning centre:

**“I drew and we did some writing. My favourite animal to draw is an elephant, because it’s easier than other animals.**

**“I like to read books, in English or Nepali, everything. I want to be a doctor when I grow up because I want to treat other people and help them.**

**“When I wasn’t in school I stayed home and didn’t do anything. I’d help fetch water and do the chores. I’d much rather come to school than fetch water.**

**“I only saw my friends who lived nearby, so I get to see many more now that we are all back in school together.**

**“My parents were happy for me to get back to school.”**

\*name has been changed to protect identity



**6 Jagat is happy he is back at school and so are his parents. Imagine you are interviewing Jagat – what would you ask him?**

Here are some things to think about:

- > the earthquakes
- > how he feels now
- > life in his village
- > the help they received.

Your interview could be for a newspaper or recorded for radio or TV.

### DRAWING THE EARTHQUAKE



This picture was drawn by a child who witnessed the Nepal earthquake. It shows scattered stones, a damaged house, broken trees, and a collapsed school and health centre.

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**7** What is the child artist trying to say? What are his or her feelings? Write a poem about what this drawing shows.

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**8** What might Jagat draw after going back to school? (You could add a poem to your drawing, as you did in task 7).

Make your drawing here

