Grade Level: 4th or 5th
Content Area: Science and Language Arts

Title of Unit: Earthquake Safety

Learning Goal: The goal for this lesson is to begin to build some background knowledge of earthquakes by beginning with common earthquake fears and concerns. Children are fascinated by natural disasters such as earthquakes, but are often fearful of what they don't know. I would use this activity to research what happens in an earthquake. I think beginning with this activity deals with fears and empowers children to learn how to prepare and be as safe as possible. I also believe it would pique the interest of what causes earthquakes and the science of how they occur.

Students will be able to:

Science:
🎬   Understand what damage can be done in an earthquake
Language Arts:
🎬   Make a poster to present research information
🎬   Compose a letter to an expert or peer to get more information on a subject

Technology Goal - Students will be able to:

🎬   Use keyboards and other common input/output devices
🎬   Use technology tools for individual and collaborative writing, communication and publishing activities to create knowledge products for audiences inside and outside the classroom

Technologies Integrated:

🎬   Teacher shows Rumble Tumble from FEMA website
🎬   Teacher uses a computer generated graphic organizer to present research questions and KWLQ chart
🎬   Students research earthquake fears and safety through pre-selected websites

Resources:
🎬   http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/kids.php USGS website for kids about earthquakes
🎬   http://www.earthquakecountry.info/ - Southern California Earthquake Center website
🎬   http://www.fema.gov/kids/quake.htm FEMA website for kids about earthquakes
🎬   http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/eqmaps/kids.html and (main page)

Activity Outline:

Class period of 45 minutes

Read Rumble Tumble from FEMA website

Talk about earthquakes – students discuss what they know and don't know.
Have students write down their fears about earthquakes, then break into small groups to compile a list of common fears.

Students prepare their list using a word processor and print out onto a transparency, then present to the class.

Close the activity by explaining that teacher will compile the lists from each group and tomorrow the groups will begin research.