

How far were people responsible for the high number of deaths in the 1999 Turkish Earthquake?



Names: _____

First thoughts and findings:

Further thoughts and findings:

Conclusion:

An earthquake of 7.4 on the Richter scale struck the region around Izmit in Turkey at 3:01am on 17th August 1999.

The ground shook in the Izmit region for 45 seconds.

The Anatolian faultline is one of the most active plate boundaries in the world.

Friction between tectonic plates on the earth's surface builds up pressure which is eventually released as an earthquake.

Many of the builders and contractors who built houses and other buildings around Izmit, took short cuts to save money and time.

The government regulations about making sure building earthquakes were often ignored by builders and contractors in this part of Turkey.

People living around Izmit have built many home, factories and other buildings next to the Anatolian faultline.

The area around Izmit is a centre of industry in Turkey. As a result it has a high population density at over 100 people per km².

60-70% of buildings near the Anatolian faultline collapsed in some way during or after the earthquake on 17th August 1999.

550/600 apartments built by one contractor in the Izmit area collapsed during or after the earthquake on 17th August 1999.

15 000 people were killed by this natural disaster. A further 24 000 people were injured and 600 000 were made homeless.

Electricity supplies were disrupted after the earthquake as a result of damage to the infrastructure in the area.

Due to a lack of power, water pumping stations could not supply water and so many areas around Izmit had not clean freshwater after the earthquake.

Underground cables and pipes were broken and disrupted.

The rescue efforts by emergency services were seriously disrupted.

It took 12 days to restore the electricity supply to all the towns and villages in the Izmit area.

The Anatolian faultline runs right through the region around Izmit.

The high number of deaths in this earthquake could have been avoided.