

Name \_\_\_\_\_

9. Dr. Charles Richter's Birthday - April 26, 1900

## The Shaky Day



Arthur sat on the floor in his bedroom building a tall tower with his wooden blocks. He was reaching to place the final block on the top when he felt the room begin to shake a little. Suddenly, his tower tumbled down, and the blocks scattered around him. The room rumbled a little while longer, and then everything was still again.

Arthur felt afraid because he did not understand what happened. Very soon, his mother came into the room. She could see that Arthur was frightened so she picked him up and put him in her lap as they sat on the edge of his bed. She hugged him and assured him that everything was alright. That made him feel safe again.

Arthur's mother explained to him that their neighborhood had just experienced a small earthquake. These were common in the part of the country where they lived, so houses were built extra strong and sturdy. That way they could be safe during those bumpy times. Later that evening, Arthur lay in bed waiting to fall asleep. He remembered all his mother had told him about earthquakes. This had been a shaky day, but he didn't feel so frightened anymore.



Choose the correct answer and write its letter on the space in front of the appropriate question.



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| _____ 1. In the story, who was building with his blocks?   | a. afraid            |
| _____ 2. What caused Arthur's room to start shaking?       | b. his mother        |
| _____ 3. How did the earthquake make Arthur feel?          | c. an earthquake     |
| _____ 4. Who came to Arthur's room and made him feel safe? | d. Arthur            |
| _____ 5. How were the houses in Arthur's area built?       | e. strong and sturdy |