

### **1. Valdivia, Chile, May 22, 1960: 9.5**

Number killed: 1,655

Number displaced: 2 million

Cost of damages: \$550 million

The world's largest earthquake produced landslides so massive that they changed the courses of rivers and lakes. It begot a tsunami that battered the northern coastline of California, some 9,000 miles away; waves also hit Hawaii, the Philippines, and Japan where hundreds died.

### **2. Prince William Sound, Alaska. March 28, 1964: 9.2**

Number killed: 128

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: \$311 million

Because it occurred on Good Friday, it earned the somewhat dubious (if logical) title of the "Good Friday Earthquake."

### **3. The west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, December 26, 2004: 9.1**

Number killed: 157,577

Number displaced: 1,075,350

Cost of damages: Unknown

The tsunami that followed caused more casualties than any in recorded history.

### **4. Kamchatka, Russia, November 5, 1952: 9.0**

Number killed: Unknown

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: \$800,000 to \$1 million

This earthquake unleashed a tsunami that was "powerful enough to throw a cement barge in the Honolulu Harbor into a freighter," but it wasn't widely reported in the West because it happened during the Cold War.

### **5. Off the coast of Ecuador, January 31, 1906: 8.8**

Number killed: 500 to 1,500

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: Unknown

An especially violent year for earthquakes, 1906 also saw massive tremors in San Francisco and in Valparaiso, Chile.

### **6. Rat Islands, Alaska, February 4, 1965: 8.7**

Number killed: Unknown

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: \$10,000

Positioned on the Aleutian arc on the boundary between the Pacific and North American crustal plates, the Rat Islands occupy one of the world's most active seismic zones; with more than 100 7.0 or larger magnitude earthquakes having occurred there in the past 100 years.

#### **7. Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, March 28, 2005: 8.7**

Number killed: at least 1,000

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: Unknown

Two months earlier National Geographic predicted that Sumatra would experience more earthquakes (following the larger one on December 26, 2004). The island sits on a part of the ocean where large chunks of Earth's crust often collide; Sumatra's fault also spans the entire length of the island, which is a bit of a double whammy.

#### **8. Assam, Tibet, August 15, 1950: 8.6**

Number killed: 780

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: more than \$25 million

Forty to 50 percent of all wildlife in the area nearest the quake died; the quake produced an violent aftershock a few days later that many journalists mistakenly believed to not only be greater than the original (it wasn't), but also the largest of all time (nor was it that).

#### **9. Andreanof Islands Alaska, March 9, 1957: 8.6**

Number killed: 0

Number displaced: Unknown

Cost of damages: \$5 million

The only reported casualties were sheep, but it did produce massive waves all along the coastline of North, Central, and South America.

#### **10. Southern Sumatra, Indonesia, September 12, 2007: 8.5**

Number killed: at least 25

Number injured: 161

Cost of damages: Unknown

Only a day after the dust settled, another 7.9 magnitude earthquake followed, collapsing buildings and killing five people.

#### **11. West Coast of Sumatra, Asia, December 26, 2004: 9.0**

Number killed: 212,000

Number injured:

Cost of damages:

The quake caused a tsunami that killed thousands.

**SRI LANKA**

Sri Lankan military authorities report over 6,000 people killed in government-controlled and rebel-controlled areas

**INDIA**

At least 4,000 killed by waves which flooded the southern coast, official media report

**INDONESIA**

Local media report more than 4,400 dead -- many of them in Aceh, in northern Sumatra

**THAILAND**

Thai authorities say more than 430 are feared dead, and hundreds are missing

**MALDIVES**

At least 32 reported killed in the high waters on an island north of the capital, Male

**MALAYSIA**

At least 48 dead and 150 people reported missing

**BANGLADESH**

At least two people reported dead and several missing

**12. The 7.0 magnitude** earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010 has begotten widespread devastation and unfathomable ruin, killing hundreds of thousands of people and leaving an estimated 1 million with nowhere to live.

**13. Charleston Earthquake of 1886, August 31, 1886**