

CLASSROOM READY Weekly News

LEVEL 2

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WEEK 1 • 2023/24

Earthquake Rattles Morocco

A powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country of Morocco on September 8. It is the most powerful quake to hit the region in the last 120 years.

Morocco is located in North Africa. It is just across the Mediterranean Sea from Spain.

The earthquake's **epicentre** was located in the High Atlas Mountains, about 72 kilometres southwest of the city of Marrakesh. It was felt strongly in Marrakesh, which is the fourth-largest city in Morocco. It was also felt in dozens of nearby villages.

The earthquake occurred just after 11 pm local time, while many people were sleeping. The quake caused thousands of stone, brick, and wood buildings to crumble and collapse. Marrakesh is an ancient city, and many of the buildings were not built to withstand a major earthquake.

That includes many historic

cultural landmarks. The famous Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakesh was built in the 12th century. It sustained damage from the earthquake. Buildings in Medina, a United Nations World Heritage site, were also damaged. (Medina is one of the three holiest cities in Islamic tradition.)

More than 48 hours after the quake, rescue workers continued working around the clock to find and save survivors trapped in the rubble. Many of the victims are in mountain villages that are remote and hard-to-reach. Some of these villages have been completely levelled.

Morocco's King Mohammed VI ordered the country's armed forces to organize rescue efforts and build a **field hospital** to treat the wounded. More than 2500 people were injured in the quake, many of them seriously. It is estimated that more than 300 000 people have been directly affected by the quake, with many displaced from their homes by the damage. Emergency workers are on hand, providing clean water, food, tents,

and blankets to help the survivors.

The powerful earthquake was felt as far away as the neighbouring country of Algeria.

World leaders have offered both condolences and help. This includes Turkey, which suffered from its own powerful earthquakes in February. France and Germany also offered aid—both European countries have large populations of people of Moroccan descent. The European Union has released 1 million euros to aid organizations already in Morocco. Canada has also been in touch with Moroccan leaders to offer aid. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Today, Morocco is home to about 38 million people. The area of present-day Morocco has been inhabited by people dating as far back as 190 000 BC.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/yvkk>

Video



WORD POWER

EPICENTRE: The point on the Earth's surface directly above the point below the surface where an earthquake started or was the strongest

CULTURAL LANDMARK: A place, often a building or monument, of special cultural and historic importance to a group of people or the world

FIELD HOSPITAL: A temporary hospital set up to provide emergency medical care for people wounded by war or natural disaster

Earthquake Rattles Morocco

1. Where was the earthquake's epicentre? Where was it felt?

2. What damage did the earthquake cause? Why was so much damage done in Marrakesh?

3. What did rescue workers do?

4. What help has been provided within the country?

5. Which countries have offered condolences and help?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Why do you think more wasn't done to prepare for an earthquake?

2. What will be the next steps to recover from this disaster?

Map Activity: Morocco

1. Locate and label the following countries in capital letters:

MOROCCO
ALGERIA
FRANCE
ITALY

LIBYA
MALI
MAURITANIA
NIGER

PORTUGAL
SPAIN
TUNISIA
WESTERN SAHARA

2. Locate and label the following cities:

RABAT
ALGIERS
LISBON

MADRID
ROME
TRIPOLI

TUNIS

3. Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:

Atlantic Ocean

Mediterranean Sea

4. Create a colour legend for your map with the following:

Morocco

Other Countries

Salt Water

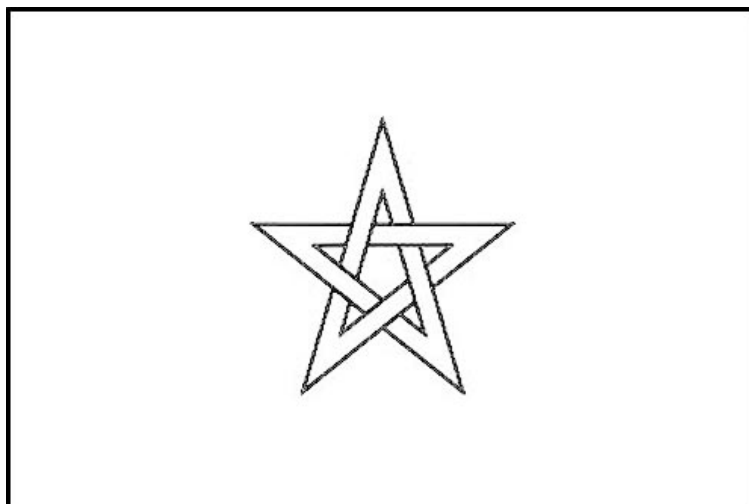
5. Draw and label the compass bearing.

6. Label your map:

Morocco and Neighbouring Countries

7. Colour the flag as follows:

Red with a green pentacle (five pointed, linear star) known as Sulayman's (Solomon's) seal in the centre of the flag.





Word Power

Using the words listed below, fill in the blanks in the following sentences. All of the words have been used in the article.

1. Without a plate to support it, the pie began to _____ into pieces.
2. Jason looked at the _____ of the damage that was done.
3. The government offered _____ to anyone affected by the flooding.
4. The _____ needs to be cleared before they can start building the new house.
5. The family was _____ by the fire.

aid, collapse, condolences, crumble, displaced, estimated, levelled, magnitude, remote, rubble, sustained, withstand

Quiz

1. The earthquake's epicentre was located in the High Atlas Mountains, about 72 kilometres southwest of the city of Marrakesh.
True False
2. The famous Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakesh sustained damage from the earthquake.
True False
3. The earthquake is the most powerful quake to hit the region in the last 120 _____.
4. The quake caused thousands of stone, brick, and wood buildings to crumble and _____.
5. More than 48 hours after the quake, rescue workers continued working around the clock to find and save _____ trapped in the rubble.

Weekly News Answer Key

Earthquake Rattles Morocco

1. **Where was the earthquake's epicentre? Where was it felt?**

The earthquake's epicentre was located in the High Atlas Mountains, about 72 kilometres southwest of the city of Marrakesh. It was felt strongly in Marrakesh, which is the fourth-largest city in Morocco. It was also felt in dozens of nearby villages.

2. **What damage did the earthquake cause? Why was so much damage done in Marrakesh?**

The quake caused thousands of stone, brick, and wood buildings to crumble and collapse. Marrakesh is an ancient city, and many of the buildings were not built to withstand a major earthquake.

3. **What did rescue workers do?**

More than 48 hours after the quake, rescue workers continued working around the clock to find and save survivors trapped in the rubble.

4. **What help has been provided within the country?**

Morocco's King Mohammed VI ordered the country's armed forces to organize rescue efforts and build a field hospital to treat the wounded. Emergency workers are on hand, providing clean water, food, tents, and blankets to help the survivors.

5. **Which countries have offered condolences and help?**

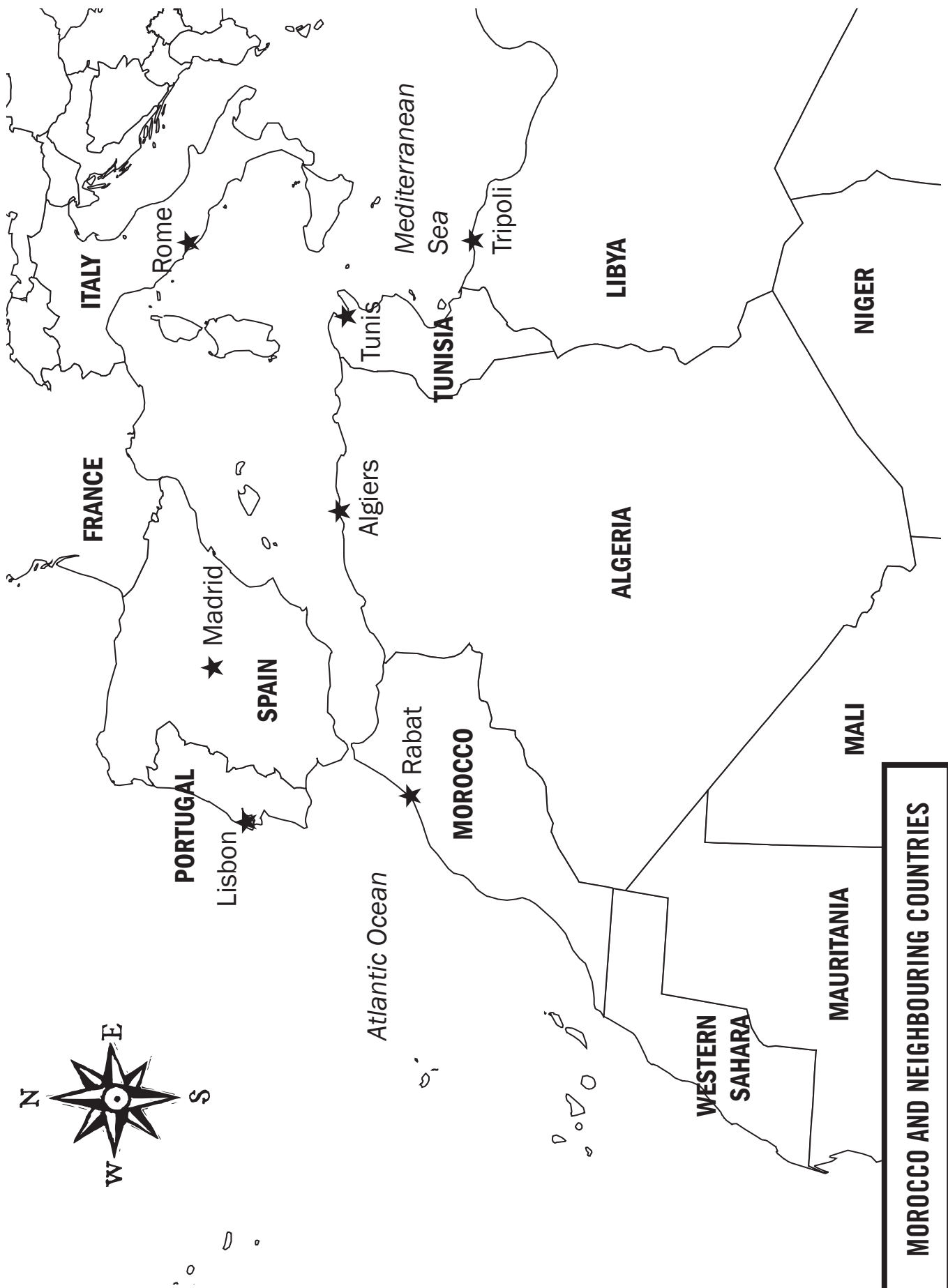
This includes Turkey, which suffered from its own powerful earthquakes in February. France and Germany also offered aid—both European countries have large populations of people of Moroccan descent. The European Union has released 1 million euros to aid organizations already in Morocco. Canada has also been in touch with Moroccan leaders to offer aid.

Word Power

1. crumble
2. magnitude
3. aid
4. rubble
5. displaced

Quiz

1. **The earthquake's epicentre was located in the High Atlas Mountains, about 72 kilometres southwest of the city of Marrakesh.**
True
2. **The famous Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakesh sustained damage from the earthquake.**
True
3. The earthquake is the most powerful quake to hit the region in the last 120 **YEARS**.
4. The quake caused thousands of stone, brick, and wood buildings to crumble and **COLLAPSE**.
5. More than 48 hours after the quake, rescue workers continued working around the clock to find and save **SURVIVORS** trapped in the rubble.



MOROCCO AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES