

BRaille READING PASSAGES: WORKSHOP 12

More Dot 5 Contractions

New contraction: ⠠⠠⠠ (-ity)

San Francisco Earthquakes

The April 18, 1906 San Francisco earthquake is thought to be one of the most significant earthquakes ever. At 5:12 a.m. local time, a foreshock of the quake occurred that was mighty enough to be felt throughout the San Francisco Bay area. Some 20 to 25 seconds later, this catastrophic San Francisco earthquake broke loose, estimated at close to 8.0 on the Richter scale. Particularly violent shocks punctuated the severe shaking which lasted from 45 to 60 seconds. This earthquake was felt through the southern part of Oregon, all the way to the south of Los Angeles, California, and as far east as central Nevada. It ruptured 296 of the approximately 800-mile San Andreas Fault. Without question, never was a quake of such magnitude felt in the U.S prior to this one.

The earthquake was characterized by the igniting of several fires throughout the area that burned brightly for three days and destroyed nearly 500 city blocks. Since there were broken water mains, firefighters were prevented from stopping the fires. An estimated 3,000 people (grandmothers, fathers, and other loved ones, etc.) were killed as buildings toppled, and half of the 400,000 residents of the city were left without homes. Brick buildings and wooden Victorian structures in that zone were particularly devastated. Money and other forms of help came from everywhere, but frightened survivors faced weeks of hardship: sleeping in tents in San Francisco parks, standing in food lines, and cooking in the streets to lessen the threat of more of the characteristic fires.

Unquestionably, the rapid response from the large number of San Francisco's military brought needed help to the devastated city. A dusk to dawn curfew was put in place and the military was authorized to shoot to kill everyone that was looting. Due to other significant smaller earthquakes that followed, firefighters and U.S.

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