

Rumblings

...what's new in educational seismology

December 2009

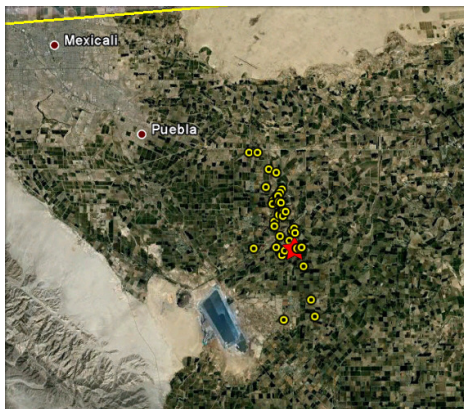
Earthquake!

After a quiet December, the end of the month brought an earthquake well recorded across the network.

Magnitude 5.8 Baja Mexico

While we highlight this largest earthquake, it was just 1 of about 39 earthquakes in a 4 hour period.

For more information about this earthquake/aftershock sequence, check out our [teachable moment](#).



New from IRIS E&O

IRIS has added a new video page in their Education and Outreach Collection.

http://www.iris.edu/hq/programs/education_and_outreach/videos

This page highlights a collection of short-segment video lectures that offer background information on the Earth and plate tectonics to teach how earthquakes happen and how they are studied. The video lecture series was intended for middle-school Earth-science teachers, but principles can be understood by the general public and can be used in introductory undergraduate classrooms.

Examples-



Video lecture discusses how scientists determine where an earthquake occurred. What is the difference between the epicenter and the focus (hypocenter).

Upload Your Data

It is easy to share your data with the network. When you extract an earthquake use a window starting approximately 5 minutes before the P Wave and ending once the recording has settled to the background noise level for several minutes. Save the extracted event as a sac file, and upload it through your browser at:

<http://www.iris.edu/hq/ssn/events/upload>

Video lecture discusses how the different seismic waves travel through the Earth and across the surface of the Earth. Shows P, S, and surface wave paths and ray velocity.



Check out our other 14 videos!

IRIS Seismographs in Schools Program
<http://www.iris.edu/hq/sis>

**IRIS**

Are you Receiving Notifications?

Are you notified when a new teachable moment product is released? Whether it is a pdf, power-point, or animation, there are a few options for you to know when the products are available.



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Upload in Real Time

Many schools send a new image of their AS-1 helicorder record every 10 minutes to the IRIS Real-Time Seismic Image Display webpage at <http://www.iris.edu/hq/ssn/schools/realtime>.

Comparing ones own record to others is a very good way to determine if a given signal is indeed an earthquake, as large events are always recorded by many stations. Variations in the background noise due to microseisms can also be monitored all across the country. And it is a wonderful way to share your seismometer images with the community in which you live.

IRIS is now transitioning from SnagIt to Fling as the software to enable this realtime sharing. As long as SnagIt is working for you, please continue to use it. However, for all new stations we will be promoting the new Fling procedure. We have found it to be simpler to setup, and easier to use. If you are having problems with SnagIt, we are happy to get you switched over.



Fling's Biggest Advantage-

The biggest advantage of making the switch is that this method of sending the image is not simply a screen capture. It only will send a picture of AmaSeis, regardless whether AmaSeis is minimized or if something else is visible on the screen.

This is thanks to Alan Jones, the developer for AmaSeis, who created a new feature in the AmaSeis software which can save your helicorder image to your local computer. This file can then be uploaded to the IRIS website using Fling.

Let us help you get set up or transition over from Fling!
Contact us at sishelp@iris.edu.