

Erin R. Burkett, Volunteer for hosting part of TO and Seismo Lab tour
March 3, 2011 (10 am – noon) in ARMS rm 267, Caltech
Four 6th grade groups (~14 students each group), San Marino Unified School District



See description of Feb 3, 2011 tour. In addition:

The earthquake machine demo is a great way to get the kids motivated to think about and predict what's happening with both the sliding bricks and an analogous earthquake along a fault. The kids love to be able to control the cranking and guess what might happen when you change the arrangement, such as by adding extra bricks. This time I focused in particular on pointing out the difference between the first 'earthquake' and the others afterwards if you continue cranking, and have them work out that this is because there is still some energy stored that doesn't necessarily get completely released in an earthquake.

Also, one class noticed the volcanoes shutting off in the India-Asia collision video and asked about that, and I ended up explaining a bit about subduction volcanoes (for instance, the sea water gets into cracks in the bending plate and turns into rock types that store more water in their chemical structure, and then when the plate gets pushed deeper, that water helps the rocks melt and create the magma that comes up above the subduction zone....of course if the plate breaks off and sinks away, the volcanoes also shut off after there's no more subduction).