This map shows global earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 and above for the 10-year period of 1998 – 2009. Some important and interesting historical
earthquakes dating back to 1700 are also shown. These events are of note for their magnitude, their societal impact, or their scientific interest.

Referenced from Bird, Peter (2003) An updated digital model of plate boundaries. (Orogen boundaries omitted.)

Produced by California Institute of Technology
Published by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc
Projection: Robinson (World)

SEISMICITY 1998 - 2009

GLOBAL BACKGROUND
SEISMICITY 1998 - 2009

NOTABLE HISTORIC EARTHQUAKES

As this map shows, smaller earthquakes occur in greater numbers than larger earthquakes. There are far more earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 to 5.9 than there are earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 and larger. An earthquake magnitude increases the frequency of occurrence by a factor of 30 times. For example, the frequency of earthquakes of magnitude 8.0 is only about 30 times more frequent than those of magnitude 7.0. Earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 to 6.9 are estimated to occur on average 1.2 to 2.0 million times per year. 7.0 to 7.9 earthquakes occur about 100 times per year. 8.0 to 8.9 earthquakes occur about 1 time per year. 9.0 to 9.9 earthquakes occur about 1 time per 50 years.