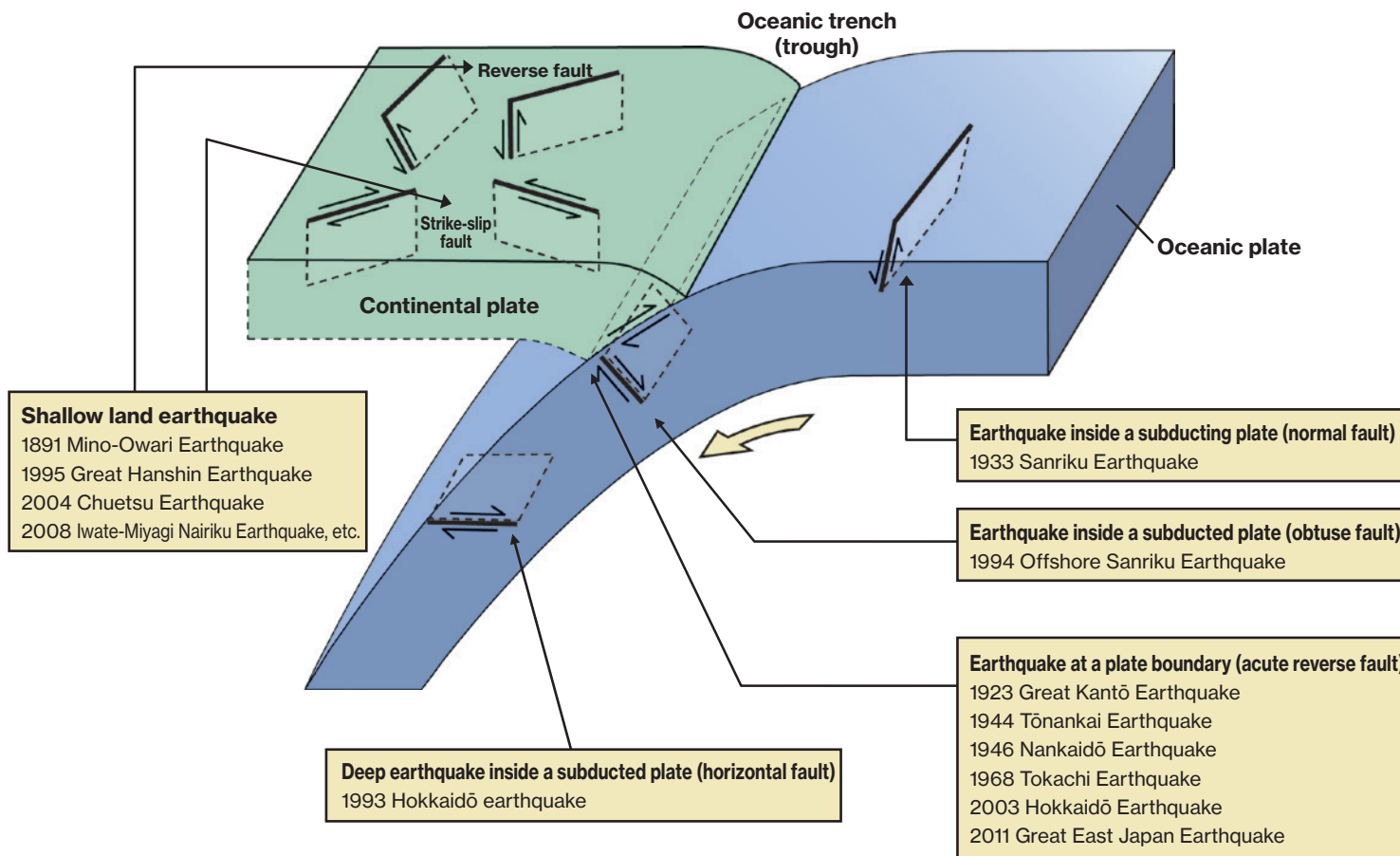


Our Knowledge About Earthquakes

◎Earthquake Mechanisms

There are four tectonic plates in the area around the Japanese archipelago and each plate moves slightly over the course of many years. When they do, a great deal of pressure is brought to bear both at plate boundaries and within the plate; when plates are displaced, it generates an earthquake.



◎Scale of Earthquakes

Magnitude	Magnitude (earthquake size) is a measure of the amount of energy released by the earthquake.
Gal	Gal is a unit of measure that expresses the strength of the shaking of an earthquake numerically in terms of acceleration (cm/sec). In general, the greater the Gal number, the greater the seismic intensity.
Shindo (seismic intensity)	Shindo is the Japanese measure of the strength of shaking of the earthquake at an observation point on a decimal scale from 0 to 7. There are some 4,200 observation points across Japan monitored by the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake was a magnitude of 9.0 and the fault stretched some 450km long by 200km wide.

◎Active Faults

This refers to a fault that has been active repeatedly in recent geological history and may be active again in the future.