**Lushan/Ya’an earthquake**

20th April 2013

Magnitude 6.6 earthquake

Lushan County is about 130km west of the city of Chengdu in southwestern China.

The epicentre was in the Longmenshan Mountains.

The focus was relatively shallow, about 12.3km below the surface.

It has a population of over 110,000 and the main township has a population of about 20,000.

There were more than 200 fatalities and over 11,000 injured.



The tectonic stress was caused by the convergence of crustal material moving from the high Tibetan Plateau to the west against the strong crust under the Sichuan Basin.

A portion of the Longmenshan fault ruptured (shown below) although it was a different section of the fault compared to the rupture of the Wenchuan/Sichuan earthquake in 2008. It is a fault in a zone of related thrust faults that form the boundary between the high Tibetan Plateau and the Sichuan Basin lowlands.

