

# Tsunami

## Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

In 2004, a tsunami killed \_\_\_\_\_ people. In 2011, a tsunami hit Japan's \_\_\_\_\_. It killed \_\_\_\_\_ and destroyed a nuclear power station. What are tsunamis and \_\_\_\_\_ do they come from?

A tsunami is a \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of energy. It's different from \_\_\_\_\_ waves, called tidal waves. Tidal waves are usually \_\_\_\_\_ meters wide. A tsunami can stretch out for \_\_\_\_\_ km.

Tidal waves move \_\_\_\_\_ water. A tsunami moves surface water and water \_\_\_\_\_ the wave all the way down to the sea \_\_\_\_\_.

Wind makes tidal waves. A tsunami is \_\_\_\_\_ when a large volume of water is moved in a \_\_\_\_\_ period of time. The most \_\_\_\_\_ cause is an undersea earthquake. It pushes a lot of water up into the air. When it \_\_\_\_\_ back into the sea, a big \_\_\_\_\_ is created. That splash sends out long waves.

As a tsunami moves \_\_\_\_\_ to land, it begins to slow down. Way out in the deep sea, a tsunami travels \_\_\_\_\_ km per hour, which is similar to a jet plane. Near land, its \_\_\_\_\_ falls to 60 km per hour.

Close to land, the wave \_\_\_\_\_ higher, but a huge wall of water is not common. If a tsunami reaches land, it can \_\_\_\_\_ buildings, and \_\_\_\_\_ cars.

Often the first wave that hits land will \_\_\_\_\_ into the sea. It looks like the tsunami is over. Minutes or \_\_\_\_\_ later, more waves hit the \_\_\_\_\_ causing more damage and \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's return to the \_\_\_\_\_ question: what's a tsunami?

It's a \_\_\_\_\_ of waves usually created by an undersea \_\_\_\_\_. It moves a lot of water below the surface. When it gets close to land, it slows down. It can \_\_\_\_\_ cities and kill. It is one of nature's most destructive \_\_\_\_\_.

## Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. destroy   | a. outside  |
| 2. surface   | b. quantity |
| 3. volume    | c. colossal |
| 4. pull back | d. retreat  |
| 5. huge      | e. ruin     |

## True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Tidal waves move surface water. T or F
2. A tsunami gains speed as it approaches the coastline. T or F
3. A tsunami can strike land multiple times. T or F
4. In 2004, a tsunami destroyed a nuclear power plant. T or F
5. Tsunami waves are usually 150 meters wide. T or F

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## Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

IATDL

\_\_\_\_\_

LAHPSS

\_\_\_\_\_

VETIRDCUETS

\_\_\_\_\_

OVEMUL

\_\_\_\_\_

TECONLASI

\_\_\_\_\_

NRLAEUC

\_\_\_\_\_

## ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

- 
1. What kind of story is this?
  2. What happened in 2004 and 2011?
  3. Compare and contrast a tsunami and a tidal wave.
  4. What happens when a tsunami approaches land?
  5. How you ever seen or experienced a tsunami?
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## Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. water / move / surface / waves / Tidal
- 

2. into / falls / the / sea / it / created / big / is / a / splash / back / When
- 

3. lots / with / tsunami / a / A / wave / of / is / energy
- 

4. of / undersea / a / an / usually / waves / by / It's / earthquake / series / created
- 

5. close / a / to / slow / it / land / moves / down / begins / to / tsunami / As
-