

Preparing for Tsunamis

Grades 1-3
Reproducible Master

Hi! I'm Tolly! A tsunami is a series of powerful, fast-moving waves. They are usually caused by an earthquake under the ocean. Want to learn more? Download **Monster Guard**. It's a free app from the American Red Cross that teaches kids how to be prepared for emergencies. Choose "Tsunami" on the main menu. Then join me on a training mission to learn how to stay safe when a tsunami is on the way. **Note:** You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Tsunami training mission.

My Tsunami Safety Score: _____

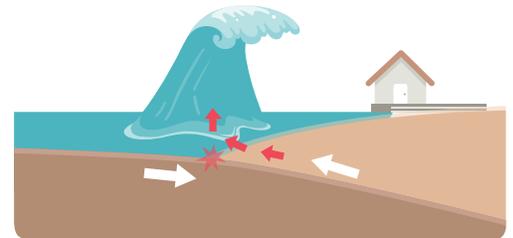


Part 1

As you have seen, tsunamis are different from normal waves. They usually start when an undersea earthquake pushes the ocean water. That causes a series of powerful waves that move through the ocean very quickly – as fast as a jet airplane. When they reach shallow water near the shore, the waves slow down and start growing taller. These tall, powerful waves can cause a lot of damage. In fact, large tsunamis can flood the land up to a mile from the shore!

How can we tell if a tsunami is coming? For tsunamis that start far away, there will usually be a warning on the radio or television, and sirens will sound along the coastline. But for tsunamis that start nearby, there may not be time for a warning. That's why you need to watch for these signs that a tsunami may be on the way.

- The ocean pulls way back from the shore, or suddenly come up farther onto the beach than normal.
- The ocean looks like it is covered with bubbles.
- The ocean makes a loud roaring sound.
- You might see a large wave on the horizon or waves rushing toward the shore and flooding over the coastline.
- You feel a long or strong earthquake near the ocean.



Use this space to draw a picture showing one of the warning signs that a nearby tsunami could be on the way.

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Part 2

Do you remember your tsunami safety training? Show what you learned. Circle the correct answer to each question.



1. If you feel an earthquake near the ocean, you should **immediately**...
 - a. Watch the ocean.
 - b. Drop, Cover, and Hold On

2. If you see the ocean pull back away from the shore...
 - a. A tsunami may be coming, and you should move away from the shoreline and seek higher ground.
 - b. The tsunami is over

3. To be prepared for tsunamis, you should be able to reach a safe area in...
 - a. 15 minutes or less
 - b. 1 hour or more

