

Tsunamis: Nature's Powerful Waves

When a tsunami forms, the wave can spread out quickly. As it gets close to land, the force of the water builds. People near the ocean may hear a loud, sucking sound, or a noise similar to a train or airplane. Then, a “drawback” may happen. Suddenly, a large area of coastline has very little water on it, because the water is moving away from land. But sometimes there is no drawback, and high waves come quickly toward the land with no warning. Some tsunami waves reach as high as thirty meters.



A powerful tsunami wave

Tsunami Reading Comprehension Quiz

Directions: Read each question carefully. Circle the best answer based on the reading passage about tsunamis.

1. What sound might people near the ocean hear when a tsunami is coming?

Circle the correct answer.

- A) A soft ringing sound
- B) A quiet whistling sound like a bird
- C) A loud, sucking sound like a train or airplane
- D) The sound of thunder and rain

2. What happens during a "drawback"?

Circle the correct answer.

- A) The water turns into ice on the beach.
- B) The water starts to spin in a circle.
- C) The water moves away from the land, leaving the coastline with very little water.
- D) The water becomes very deep near the shore suddenly.

3. According to the text, how high can some tsunami waves reach?

Circle the correct answer.

- A) Only one meter high
- B) As high as a mountain
- C) Ten meters high
- D) As high as thirty meters

4. Does a drawback happen every time a tsunami comes toward land?

Circle the correct answer.

- A) Yes, but only during the daytime.
- B) No, sometimes high waves come quickly with no warning.
- C) No, it only happens in small oceans.
- D) Yes, it always happens before a wave.