



Student Activity

Earthquake Tsunami: Waves of Destruction

Vocabulary:

tectonic plates, subduction zones, tsunami, seismologists, seismology, Richter scale, magnitude of an earthquake, seismic sea waves, epicenter, epicenter, relief operations

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What are earthquakes? Why do they occur?

What is a tsunami? How are earthquakes and tsunamis connected?

What caused the tsunami of 2004? What countries were affected?

Why was this disaster considered to be one of the worst in human history?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Where was the epicenter of the 2004 earthquake that caused the tsunami? What six countries were directly affected by this tsunami?

Why are tectonic plates so important in shaping the Earth as we know it?

What is a subduction zone? Which areas of the world contain subduction zones?

Why was the 2004 tsunami so disastrous? What can the international community do to prevent such destruction in the future?

Further Activities:

Choose an area hit by the 2004 tsunami and research how rebuilding of infrastructure and property has progressed since the disaster and what agencies have been involved.

Research the role of one of the following agencies in tsunami aid: the Red Cross, Oxfam or World Vision.

Find out as much as you can about the Lisbon earthquake and tsunami of 1755, the Iranian earthquake of 2004 or the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883.

Prepare a brochure that informs people about how to respond in a natural disaster such as an earthquake or tsunami.