

# TSUNAMIS: DEADLY TIDAL WAVES

**Annotating Marks**  
As you read the passage, make the following marks on your text:

- ➔ Circle powerful words or phrases.
- ➔ Underline words or phrases you do not understand.

**Task 1 - Read & Annotate**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
As you read through *Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves* for the first time, annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

**Task 2 - VOCABULARY**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
Read *Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves* a second time. Find four words which are unfamiliar to you and complete the vocabulary diagram below.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM

**Task 4 - Reread & Respond**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reread the passage *Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves*. Complete the chart below, listing four details supporting the statement.

Detail 1	Detail 2

**Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
Read the passage *Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves*. Use the evidence from the passage to answer the following questions:

**Text Evidence Questions:**

- What is the main idea of the passage?
- List three details that support the main idea:  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_
- Give 2 pieces of text evidence that show that tsunamis can be dangerous and destructive.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
- List five things that happen from the time a tsunami begins to the time it reaches the coast.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_  
d) \_\_\_\_\_  
e) \_\_\_\_\_
- Give 2 details that describe the deadliest tsunami in history.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 5 - Summarize**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Using the organizer from Task 4, write a summary of the passage. The main idea should be stated in your first sentence. Then use the four details to write four supporting sentences. Close your summary by restating the main idea.

**SUMMARY OF TSUNAMIS: DEADLY TIDAL WAVES**

**Margin Notes**  
It can be great fun to swim and surf on the ocean's waves. The majestic rise and fall of the waves can be a beautiful sight. Waves, however, can also be very dangerous, especially if they are part of a deadly tsunami (soo-nah-mee).

A tsunami is a series of enormous ocean waves that sends surges of water, sometimes reaching heights of over 100 feet, onto land. It is a highly destructive event, usually causing great amounts of damage and sometimes causing many deaths.

What causes a tsunami to occur? Sometimes, underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions, or even asteroids can cause a tsunami. Usually, a large earthquake on the ocean floor causes it. Tectonic plates on the ocean floor sometimes shift. When the boundary of a plate on the bottom of the ocean suddenly rises or falls, it moves the water above it and begins the rolling waves that become a tsunami.

After the waves begin, tsunamis race across the water at up to 500 miles per hour. Their long wavelengths mean that they will lose very little energy as they travel toward a coast. Out in the deep ocean waters, tsunami waves can seem to be only a foot high. As they move toward shallower coastal waters, they begin to slow down, growing in energy and height. The tops of the waves move faster than the bottom, which makes them grow even taller.

A tsunami's trough, which is the lowest point beneath the top of the wave, usually reaches shore first. This causes a vacuum effect, and coastal water is sucked out to sea, leaving the beach floor without water for a short time. This is a huge warning to people that a tsunami is coming. If you are on a coast and see this happen, move quickly to a higher area.

When a tsunami finally reaches the shore, the huge wall of water can quickly move inland, destroying anything and everything within its path. Major flooding occurs and the force of the moving water is massive.

The largest tsunami ever recorded happened in Lituya Bay, Alaska on July 9, 1958. It had a height of 1,720 feet. The deadliest tsunami occurred on December 26, 2004, in Sumatra, Indonesia when a large earthquake struck off the coastline there. An enormous wave formed in the ocean and raced toward the coastline. About 230,000 lives were lost in the tragic events of that day.

Some coastal areas are more likely to experience tsunamis than others. They occur most often in the Pacific Ocean and Indonesia. There are a large number of active earthquake zones in these regions. A tsunami could happen anywhere along a coastline, but coasts that border the Pacific Ocean or the Caribbean have the greatest risk.

## DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

# 2 Different Reading Levels

## High-Interest Passage!

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

**Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves**

**Margin Notes**

It can be great fun to swim and surf on the ocean's waves. The constant rise and fall of the waves can be beautiful. Waves can also be very dangerous. This is especially if they are part of a deadly tsunami (soo-nah-me).

A tsunami is a series of enormous ocean waves. These waves send surges of water onto land. They sometimes are over 100 feet tall. Tsunamis are very destructive. They usually cause great amounts of damage and sometimes many deaths.

What causes a tsunami to occur? Sometimes, underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions, or even asteroids can cause a tsunami. Usually, a large earthquake on the ocean floor causes it. Tectonic plates on the ocean floor sometimes shift. When the boundary of a plate on the bottom of the ocean suddenly rises or falls, it moves the water above it. This starts the rolling waves that become a tsunami.

After the waves begin, tsunamis race across the water. They can reach speeds of up to 500 miles per hour. They have long wavelengths. This means they lose very little energy as they travel toward a coast. Out in the deep ocean, tsunami waves might be only a foot high. As they move toward shallower waters, they begin to slow down. They grow in energy and height. The waves move faster than the bottom. This makes them grow even taller.

A tsunami's trough is the lowest point beneath the top of the wave, usually reaches shore first. This causes a vacuum effect. Coastal water is sucked out to sea. The beach floor is without water for a short time. This is a huge warning to people that a tsunami is coming. If you are on a coast and see this happen, move quickly to a higher area.

When a tsunami finally reaches the shore, the huge wall of water can quickly move inland. It destroys anything and everything within its path. Major flooding occurs. The force of the moving water is incredible.

The largest tsunami ever recorded happened in Lituya Bay, Alaska, on July 9, 1958. It had a height of 1,720 feet. The deadliest tsunami occurred on December 26, 2004, in Sumatra, Indonesia. A large earthquake struck off the coast there. An enormous wave formed in the ocean. It raced toward the coastline. About 230,000 lives were lost in the tragic events of that day.

Some coastal areas are more likely to have tsunamis than others. They occur most often in the Pacific Ocean and Indonesia. There are a large number of active earthquake zones in these areas. A tsunami could happen anywhere along a coastline. Coasts that border the Pacific Ocean or the Caribbean have the greatest risk, though.

You can stay safer by listening for tsunami warnings and following directions right away.

**Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves**

**Margin Notes**

It can be great fun to swim and surf on the ocean's waves. The majestic rise and fall of the waves can be a beautiful sight. Waves, however, can also be very dangerous, especially if they are part of a deadly tsunami (soo-nah-me).

A tsunami is a series of enormous ocean waves that sends surges of water, sometimes reaching heights of over 100 feet, onto land. It is a highly destructive event, usually causing great amounts of damage and sometimes causing many deaths.

What causes a tsunami to occur? Sometimes, underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions, or even asteroids can cause a tsunami. Usually, a large earthquake on the ocean floor causes it. Tectonic plates on the ocean floor sometimes shift. When the boundary of a plate on the bottom of the ocean suddenly rises or falls, it moves the water above it and begins the rolling waves that become a tsunami.

After the waves begin, tsunamis race across the water at up to 500 miles per hour. Their long wavelengths mean that they will lose very little energy as they travel toward a coast. Out in the deep ocean waters, tsunami waves can seem to be only a foot high. As they move toward shallower coastal waters, they begin to slow down, growing in energy and height. The tops of the waves move faster than the bottom, which makes them grow even taller.

A tsunami's trough, which is the lowest point beneath the top of the wave, usually reaches shore first. This causes a vacuum effect, and coastal water is sucked out to sea, leaving the beach floor without water for a short time. This is a huge warning to people that a tsunami is coming. If you are on a coast and see this happen, move quickly to a higher area.

When a tsunami finally reaches the shore, the huge wall of water can quickly move inland, destroying anything and everything within its path. Major flooding occurs and the force of the moving water is massive.

The largest tsunami ever recorded happened in Lituya Bay, Alaska on July 9, 1958. It had a height of 1,720 feet. The deadliest tsunami occurred on December 26, 2004, in Sumatra, Indonesia when a large earthquake struck off the coastline there. An enormous wave formed in the ocean and raced toward the coastline. About 230,000 lives were lost in the tragic events of that day.

Some coastal areas are more likely to experience tsunamis than others. They occur most often in the Pacific Ocean and Indonesia. There are a large number of active earthquake zones in these regions. A tsunami could happen anywhere along a coastline, but coasts that border the Pacific Ocean or the Caribbean have the greatest risk.

You can stay safer by listening for tsunami warnings and following directions right away.

# Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

## CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each should take one week to complete.



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Student reads the passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** Students reread the passage a third time, then responds in writing, citing text evidence when answering questions. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond** and **Task 5: Summarize**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

## Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks on the text:

- ➡ **Circle** powerful words or phrases.
- ➡ **Underline** words or phrases you do not understand.
- ➡ **Place a question mark** near something that makes you think of a question.
- ➡ **Write an exclamation mark** near something that surprises you.
- ➡ **Draw an arrow** where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- ➡ **Write your important thoughts** in the margins.

Wow! The character showed a lot of courage here...

## ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Close Reading passage included in this packet is provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction. The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All question sheets are the same. This makes it easy for you to provide an informational reading passage on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

### NOTE:

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.  
The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	Task 1: Read and Annotate	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	Task 2: Vocabulary	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	Task 4: Reread and Respond	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves	■	750
	▲	1,050

# 5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension

## Task 1 - Read & Annotate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through *Tsunamis: Deadly Tidal Waves* for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

### First Reading Questions:

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a tsunami?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What causes a tsunami to occur?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did the largest tsunami ever recorded take place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where do tsunamis most often happen?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Task 2 - VOCABULARY

Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
Find four words which are important to the passage. Write the word in the box below and find its definition and synonym.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

## Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage again. Find four words which are important to the passage. Write the word in the box below and find its definition and synonym.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

## Task 4 - Reread & Respond

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage again. Find four words which are important to the passage. Write the word in the box below and find its definition and synonym.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

## Task 5 - Summarize

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage again. Find four words which are important to the passage. Write the word in the box below and find its definition and synonym.

Summary of the passage. The main idea is \_\_\_\_\_ by restating the main idea.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

**NO PREP!**  
**Print and Go!**

# Answer Keys Provided

## Task 1 - Read & Answer

### TSUNAMIS: DEADLY TIDAL WAVES ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that is unclear.
- Write an exclamation mark near something surprising.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margin.

#### First Reading Questions: *Some answers may vary.*

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
*This passage is mostly about tsunamis, which are formed.*

2. What is a tsunami?  
*A tsunami is a series of enormous waves.*

3. What causes a tsunami?  
*Sometimes, under the ocean floor is a fault line. When the boundary of a plate on the bottom of the ocean floor rises or falls, it moves the water above it, causing waves.*

4. Where did the largest tsunami ever occur?  
*The largest tsunami occurred in Litu.*

5. Where do tsunamis most often occur?  
*They most often occur in the Pacific Ocean.*

## Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

### TSUNAMIS: DEADLY TIDAL WAVES ANSWER KEY

#### Text Evidence Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?  
*Tsunamis are a series of large, destructive ocean waves caused by earthquakes on the ocean floor.*

2. List three details that support the main idea:

- A tsunami is a series of enormous ocean waves.*
- Usually, a large earthquake on the ocean floor causes it.*
- They occur most often in the Pacific Ocean, especially in Indonesia.*

3. Give 2 pieces of text evidence that show tsunamis can be dangerous and destructive.

- Tsunami waves can travel up to 500 miles per hour.*
- When a tsunami hits, the huge wall of water can quickly destroy everything within its path.*

4. How long does it take for a tsunami to happen from the time a tsunami begins to the time it reaches the coast?

- When the boundary of a plate on the bottom of the ocean floor rises or falls, it moves the water above it, causing waves.*
- The tsunamis race across the water.*
- As they move toward shallow water, they begin to slow down.*
- They grow in energy and height.*
- Coastal water is sucked out to sea, and the wall of water then moves inland.*

5. Give 2 details that describe the deadliest tsunami in history.

- It occurred on December 24, 2004 in Sumatra, Indonesia.*
- About 230,000 lives were lost.*