DİJİTAL KÜTÜPHANE KANALI

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PACIFIC PLATES

The broken area down the Pacific Ocean is called the Pacific Rim, nicknamed the "Ring of Fire" the reason for that, is that we have lots of volcanoes around this area, and this is the place we find deepest and strongest earthquakes ever recorded. In 1960, an earthquake in Chile, 9,5 on the scale. In 1964, in the Aleutians in Alaska...9,2. And of course, the quake in Sumatra at 9,0. Sumatra, is the location of the quake about off the coast. This whole area is a flat zone between the Australian plate in the southwest and the Eurasian plate in the northeast. These two are coming together and one of them has to win. In this case, the Australian plate dives beneath the Eurasian plate but it gets stuck. When it unsticks, that's what unleashes an earthquake. As one plate dives beneath the other, the elevation of the sea floor changes. Any displacement in the sea floor generates a seismic sea wave and that's what we call a tsunami.

Earthquakes like the massive one that caused this disaster in Southeast Asia, are the most common causes of tsunamis, but tsunami can also be triggered by volcanoes. In 1883 the eruption of the volcano Krakatoa sparked a wave that killed over 30 thousand people in Java and Sumatra. Scientists are also studying how pockets of gases beneath the sea floor could erupt, and send tsunami toward land. That's possibility on the Continental Shelf off the east coast of the United States. And there's another remote but possible cause of a tsunami-a meteor striking the earth near a coastal area.

It may be human nature, but it took a series of deaths in the 1940's and 1960's to inspire the creation of a tsunami warning network spanning the ocean from the Americas to Japan. The Atlantic, where tsunamis are far more rare, has no formal network, but weather buoys and other technology can provide some warning. The Nations around the Indian Ocean have neither and the element of surprise magnified the death toll from the massive earthquake.

1. Unleash (v)

   A) to cause a sudden reaction
   B) to make something more effective
   C) to reduce in power
   D) to explore

2. Elevation (n)

   A) The depth of something
   B) The highest point of a place
   C) The height of an area
   D) The distance between two places

3. Massive (adj)

   A) Very small and thin
   B) Stable
   C) Pure and clean
   D) Very big and large

4. Eruption (n)

   A) Sudden movement
   B) Very big and sudden explosion
   C) Unexpected change of the water
   D) Strong flow of a river

5. Strike (v)

   A) To hit or crash
   B) To penetrate
   C) To melt down completely
   D) To drive very fast.