

T S U N A M I F A C T F I L E

Giant waves that look like a wall of water, caused suddenly by natural events which affect the movement of water.

Pronounced:
'soo-nar-me'

Meaning: In Japanese
'Tsu' = harbour + 'nami' = wave



C A U S E S

Earthquakes, landslides on the sea floor, volcanic action, meteorites, land falling into the ocean.

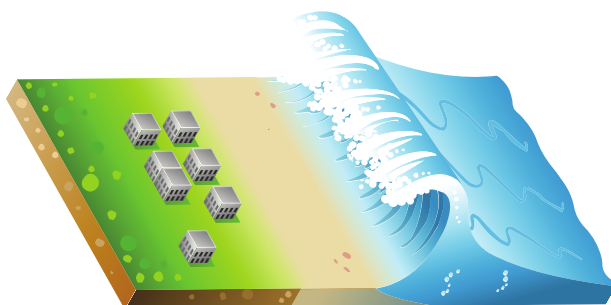


H E I G H T

Up to 30 meters!



Before a tsunami makes land, the water is sucked out to sea revealing the ocean floor, just like at low tide.



S P E E D

Tsunami speeds slow as they reach land, because speed is determined by the depth of the water. In deep water, a tsunami can travel as fast as a passenger jet!



TORNADO FACT FILE

Destructive and fast spinning funnel-shaped wind that stretches from a thunderstorm to the ground.

Tornadoes are also called twisters. They are distinguished from tropical storms such as cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes due to their twisting nature.

The majority of the world's tornadoes occur in the United States of America, during spring time.



CAUSES

Scientists aren't exactly sure how or why tornadoes form, but do know that they come from supercell storms that have strong updrafts (rising warm air).



DURATION

Tornadoes can last for a few seconds up to an hour.

Tornadoes can be so powerful that they can uproot trees, lift cars and tear roofs off houses.



SPEED

Tornadoes can reach speeds of up to 480kms per hour!

The speed of the tornado determines its classification using the 6-point Fujita scale, where F0 is the weakest, and F5 the strongest wind speeds.

SIZE

The diameter of a tornado can be as small as a few meters to over a kilometer wide.