

Terrifying Tsunamis **Answers**

Q1: What does the word tsunami mean?

Accept the answer 'harbour wave' only.

Q2: '*...they'd plunder and pillage with glee.*' What do you think that this phrase means?

Accept answers which equate the phrase to meaning happily stealing / robbing / thieving from other ships.

Q2: Why might people confuse tsunamis and tidal waves?

Accept any answer which relates to the fact that tsunamis and tidal waves are both overly large waves which cause damage, such as:

- They might get them mixed up because they are both extremely big waves.
- They are both big waves which cause a lot of damage.

Q3: '*...which can travel across the ocean faster than a jet plane...*'

Why does the author describe a tsunami in this way?

Accept answers which relate to the author's intent to explain a tsunami's speed in a way that regular readers would understand, such as:

- It helps the reader to understand it because most people know how fast a plane travels.
- By comparing it to something they know, the reader can understand it better.

Q4: Approximately how much do tectonic plates move each year?

Accept the answer '(around) 2cm' only.

Q5: Why do you think the author compares the height a tsunami can reach to a famous statue in Brazil?

Accept answers which relate to the author's intent to explain a tsunami's height in a way that regular readers would understand, such as:

- **It helps the reader to understand it because most people can imagine how tall that statue is compared to themselves.**
- **By comparing it to something they know, the reader can visualise it better.**

Q6: Find and copy an adjective which describes the distance a tsunami can travel inland.

Accept the answer 'terrifying' only.

Q7a: How is the information in this text organised?

Accept any one or both of the following answers:

- **The author has used subheadings.**
- **It is organised by topic – the text is split into sections about different things.**

Q7b: For what reason has this been done?

Accept any answer which relates to making the text easier to read, making it easier to find specific bits of information or organising the text by content.

Q8: Why do you think that packing up belongings or visiting friends is a 'common mistake'?

Accept answers which discuss the fact that a lot of people would do this, not wanting to lose their items or leave their friends in danger, such as:

It might be a common mistake because lots of people rush back for their items because they don't want to lose them and then get caught by the tsunami.

Q9: '...eagle-eyed scientists can spot a few warning signs...'

Why does the word 'eagle-eyed' tell you about the scientists?

Accept answers which relate to scientists being very observant, quick to respond, always watching or especially good at their jobs, such as:

It tells us that the scientists are always watching carefully for the warning signs.

Q10: Why are systems like the Pacific Tsunami Warning System being built around the world if they are so expensive?

Accept answers which state that the value of human lives and safety outweighs the cost of the systems, such as:

- **Even though they are expensive, it is worth the money to save many lives.**
- **They are being built because the cost is nothing compared to the value of the lives they will save.**
- **The money does not matter because they are so important to safety.**

Q11: Summarise what you have read in 25 words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary of the text, including the definition of a tsunami, provided that it is given in 25 words or less, such as:

'Tsunamis are large waves that are caused by earthquakes, which grow over 30m tall and can travel 1,500m inland. People must get to higher ground.'