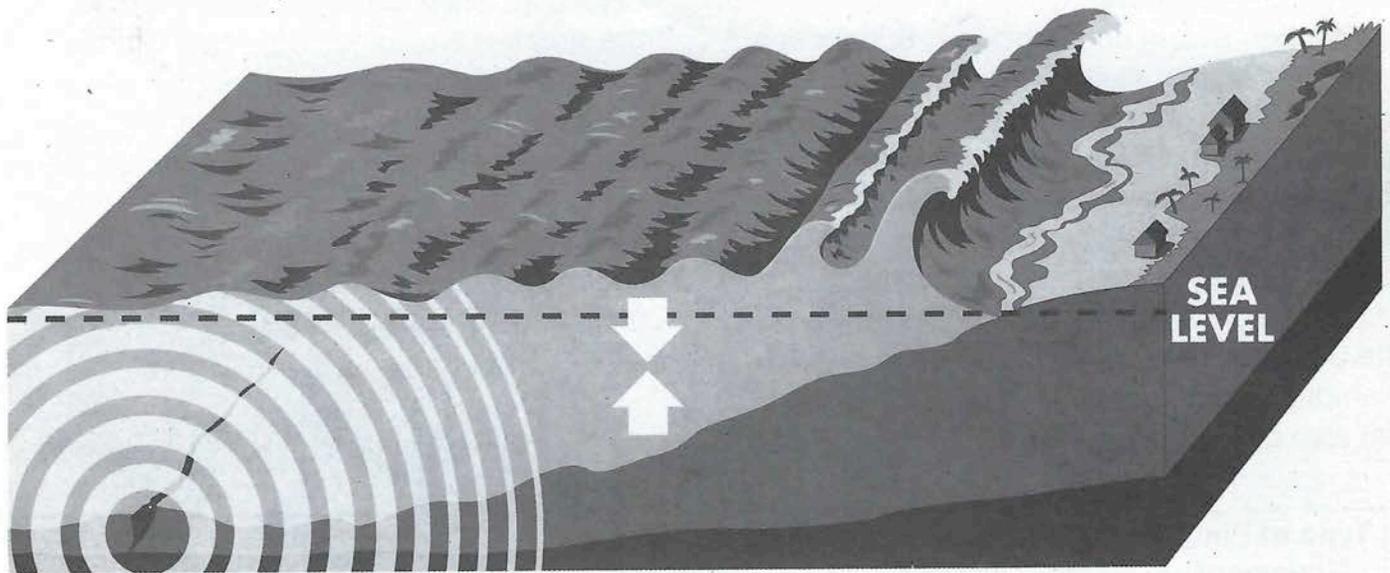


A **tsunami** is created when an earthquake happens under the sea. The shock waves created by the earthquake form a seismic sea wave of water that is pushed in all directions by the force of the earthquake.

Tsunamis begin where the earthquake occurs in very deep water. The wave of a tsunami is not as big when it begins in deep water because the energy is spread through the water. As the wave travels closer to shore, it grows taller and longer because there is less water to absorb the energy as the ocean becomes shallower.

By the time a tsunami reaches the shore, it can be more than 200 feet tall and up to 600 miles long! Tsunamis can travel at speeds ranging from 100 to 600 miles per hour. Tsunamis destroy buildings and even landforms, cause flooding, and kill people and animals. They are very powerful and destructive.

The earthquakes that create tsunamis are usually greater than 6.5 on the Richter scale. This is a destructive earthquake strong enough to shake buildings. Tsunamis can be predicted by predicting earthquakes that will have a magnitude of 6.5 or greater.



### Answer the Following

1. What is an earthquake? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a fault? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name three types of plate movement that cause faults. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is subduction? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is a tsunami smaller when it begins at sea than when it reaches the shoreline?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_