Tsunamis

What is a tsunami?

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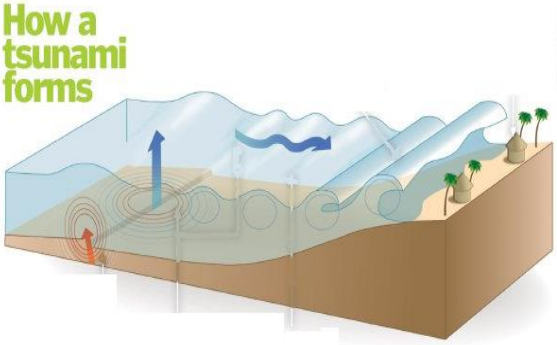
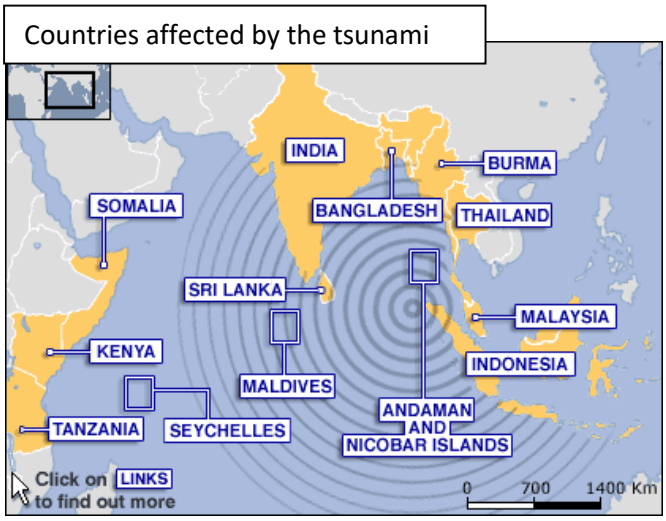


Use the diagram and the information you have read to put the following sentences into the correct order to describe how a tsunami forms. Put a 1 in the box next to the sentence you think comes first.

	Order of Sentences
Pressure builds under the surface at a tectonic plate boundary for a very long time until it is released in an earthquake or volcanic eruption.	
Waves out at sea are often small, but travel at hundreds of miles an hour.	

The back of the wave is still moving faster than the front, so the back rises causing a massive wave to form (often as high as 50ft).	
The rock is pushed upwards after the earthquake, shifting the ocean water and causing a wave to form.	
The massive wave hits the shore and travels inland, destroying objects and buildings in its path.	
As waves move into shallow water they slow down.	

The South East Asia Tsunami



On December 26th 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.1 on the Richter Scale happened under the Indian Ocean. The epicentre of this earthquake was near Sumatra in Indonesia.

This earthquake lifted a 750 mile stretch of sea bed 40 metres higher than it had been. This then shifted the ocean water, forming a 1m tall wave at sea that was 100 miles long. This wave travelled at 500 mph until it hit shallower water and slowed down. As the wave slowed, it reached a height of 115 foot.

Eleven countries were hit by the tsunami waves, but the energy of the earthquake and tsunami was felt around the world.

Fact File

Use the information above to fill in the boxes to make your own fact fileaout the 2004 tsunami

DATE	
TIME	
CAUSE OF TSUNAMI	
MAGNITUDE OF EARTHQUAKE	
LENGTH OF SEA BED LIFTED	
MAXIMUM WAVE SPEED	
TALLEST WAVE HEIGHT	
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AFFECTED	
EXAMPLES OF THREE COUNTRIES AFFECTED	