Tsunami

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Vocabulary

Meteorite: a piece of rock or other matter from space that has landed on earth.

Jet plane: an aircraft with a jet engine that is able to fly very fast.

Tidal wave: an extremely large wave caused by violent movement of the earth under the sea.

Trough: a low point between two high points, as on a graph or record of activity.

Crest: the top or highest part of something such as a wave or a hill.

Gauge (in this context): a device for measuring the amount or size of something.

Debris: broken or torn pieces of something larger.

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What is Tsunami?

Tsunami is a huge sea wave caused by a great disturbance under an ocean, such as a strong earthquake, volcanic eruption or even a large **meteorite** plunging into an ocean. National Geographic reports that most tsunamis – about 80 percent – happen within the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," a geologically active area where tectonic shifts make volcanoes and earthquakes common.

On September 29, 2009, a tsunami caused substantial damage and loss of life in American Samoa, and Tonga. The tsunami was generated by a large earthquake in the Southern Pacific Ocean.

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