

Tsunamis activity 4: **Newspaper article**

Description: Students research a tsunami that impacted Canada, imagine what it must have been like if they were there at the time of the event, and write a descriptive report in the form of a newspaper article.

Materials: student access to computers for on-line research
student worksheet (1. Newspaper report on a tsunami)

Teacher instructions and notes:

1. In advance of the class, review Canadian tsunami events in the **Atlas of Canada: Tsunamis** [PDF] - included as part of these resources.
2. Inform students about different tsunami events that have occurred in Canada. Be sure to talk about the damages that were caused by each tsunami and how the tsunami happened.
3. Discuss the following terms with students, ensuring that they understand what each means and how they are involved with a tsunami event.

tsunami	landslide	coast
wave	earthquake	flooding
wave height	epicentre	Trans-Atlantic cables
disaster	harbour	boats
damage	inlet	Run-up distance

4. Have the students create a newspaper article, reporting on the 1929 tsunami event along the Burin Peninsula in Newfoundland or the 1964 event at Port Alberni, British Columbia. The student should pretend that they are a newspaper reporter at the time of the event and describe it as if it had just occurred. They should describe everything they see, hear, smell, and describe how people are reacting to the event. Ensure that they use vocabulary (as appropriate) from the above list of terms in their article.

Newspaper report on a tsunami

Instructions:

- Pretend that you are a newspaper reporter at the time of one of the following tsunami disasters (November 19, 1929 or March 29, 1964). You must write a newspaper article about the disaster that has just happened.
- Research the event on-line and imagine what it must have been like to have been there. Possible sources are listed below.
- Write a newspaper article (approx. 300 words). Your job is to tell your readers all about the damage, what happened, what you see, smell, hear, etc., and how people in the towns are dealing with the damage. You can use 'pretend' quotes from eyewitnesses. You can illustrate your article with a drawing or map.
- When writing your article be sure to use most of the words in this list. Some will not apply to your chosen tsunami.

tsunami
wave
wave height
disaster
damage

landslide
earthquake
epicentre
harbour
inlet

coast
flooding
Transatlantic cables
boats
Run-up distance

Do either A or B.

A: East Coast Tsunami

It is November 19, 1929. On November 18, a great tsunami hit the coast of Newfoundland, causing a lot of damage to houses, streets, buildings and neighbourhoods, including 27 fatalities. You are a newspaper reporter for the "Newfoundland Citizen".

B: West Coast Tsunami

It is March 29, 1964. On March 28, a tsunami struck the coast of Vancouver Island. Damages were particularly heavy in Port Alberni, which lies at the top of a long narrow arm of the sea. You are a newspaper reporter for the "Victoria Herald".

Possible sources:

The Atlas of Canada: Tsunamis [PDF] - included as part of these resources, contains general information and a description of historic tsunami events in Canada.

Natural Resources of Canada - The Magnitude 7.2 1929 "Grand Banks" earthquake and tsunami

Eng: http://earthquakescanada.nrcan.gc.ca/historic_eq/20th/1929/1929_e.php

Fr: http://seismescanada.nrcan.gc.ca/historic_eq/20th/1929/1929_f.php