

4. Tsunamis

Tsunamis are huge waves that start deep in the ocean.

They're caused by underwater earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides.

Massive amounts of water are pushed to the surface, creating giant waves.

Waves of up to 30 metres tall race across the sea at hundreds of miles per hour. If these powerful walls of water hit land, they can cause huge devastation.



Sometimes the waves carry broken bits called debris from buildings they've smashed. Tsunamis have even carried entire ships onto land and dumped them on buildings.

The word 'tsunami' comes from the Japanese for 'harbour wave'. This is because more tsunamis hit Japan than anywhere else in the world.

Some towns on the coast of Japan have built walls that are 12 metres high to protect against tsunamis. They have also built warning systems.

