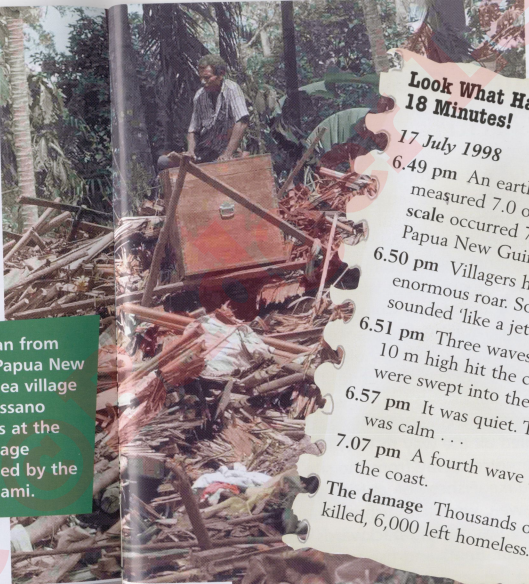


Deep Water Alert!

The Pacific Ocean is the world's deepest ocean. Ninety per cent of all tsunamis have occurred here because the most dangerous tsunamis usually begin in very deep water. Also, the Pacific has many underwater earthquakes that are caused by movements in the **earth's crust**.

There are two tsunami warning centres in the world. One of them is in Alaska, and the other is in Hawaii. Scientists at these centres watch for strong earthquakes. They also get information from tidal stations, which tell when sea conditions match those of a possible tsunami. Then they warn people to be prepared. But the system doesn't always work. Seventy-five per cent of all tsunami warnings issued since 1948 have been false.



A man from the Papua New Guinea village of Sissano looks at the damage caused by the tsunami.

SURVIVAL TACTICS

On land: RUN quickly to higher ground. Warn others of the danger. Stay away from all areas that are close to the coast.
At sea: Move to deep water. Do not go into the harbour. This is where the tsunami will hit the hardest.



A scientist checks out the seismic recordings at the tsunami centre in Palmer, Alaska.

Look What Happened in 18 Minutes!

17 July 1998

6.49 pm An earthquake that measured 7.0 on the Richter scale occurred 70 km from Papua New Guinea.

6.50 pm Villagers heard an enormous roar. Some said it sounded 'like a jet fighter'.

6.51 pm Three waves up to 10 m high hit the coast. People were swept into the sea.

6.57 pm It was quiet. The water was calm . . .

7.07 pm A fourth wave hit the coast.

The damage Thousands of people killed, 6,000 left homeless.

Q: Why did the man water half his lawn?

A: Because the warning centre said there was a 50 percent chance of a tsunami!