Tell me about tsunamis:

*Tsunami* is a Japanese word meaning harbor wave. Tsunamis can be created by earthquakes, underwater volcanoes, and landslides. The wave height of a tsunami increases over shallow water, so while ships over deep water may not be affected, towns and harbor areas can experience very large waves. NOAA operates two tsunami warning centers to warn for tsunamis around the US.

---

**Materials:**
- Cardboard
- Tape
- Tub or bin (shoebox size or larger)
- Clay, playdough or mud
- Water (food coloring optional)
- Small plants - real or fake
- Extra - small boats, people, other items to decorate your “town”

**Instructions:**

1) Use tape and cardboard to create a slope and raised area.

2) Cover the raised area with clay, playdough or mud to represent land. Add little houses to make a seaside town.

3) Add water to your container. Water should be about halfway up the slope of the raised area.

4) Use cardboard to create a wave of water. You can move a piece of cardboard like a fan in the water, or you can press a flat end of cardboard in the water like a large foot. Experiment with different techniques.

5) Add plants, real or fake, to the sloped area in between your town and the water. Experiment with different amounts of plants. Make waves again. Do the plants change the amount of water in your town?

Tip: Put your container on a cookie sheet or do this activity outside.