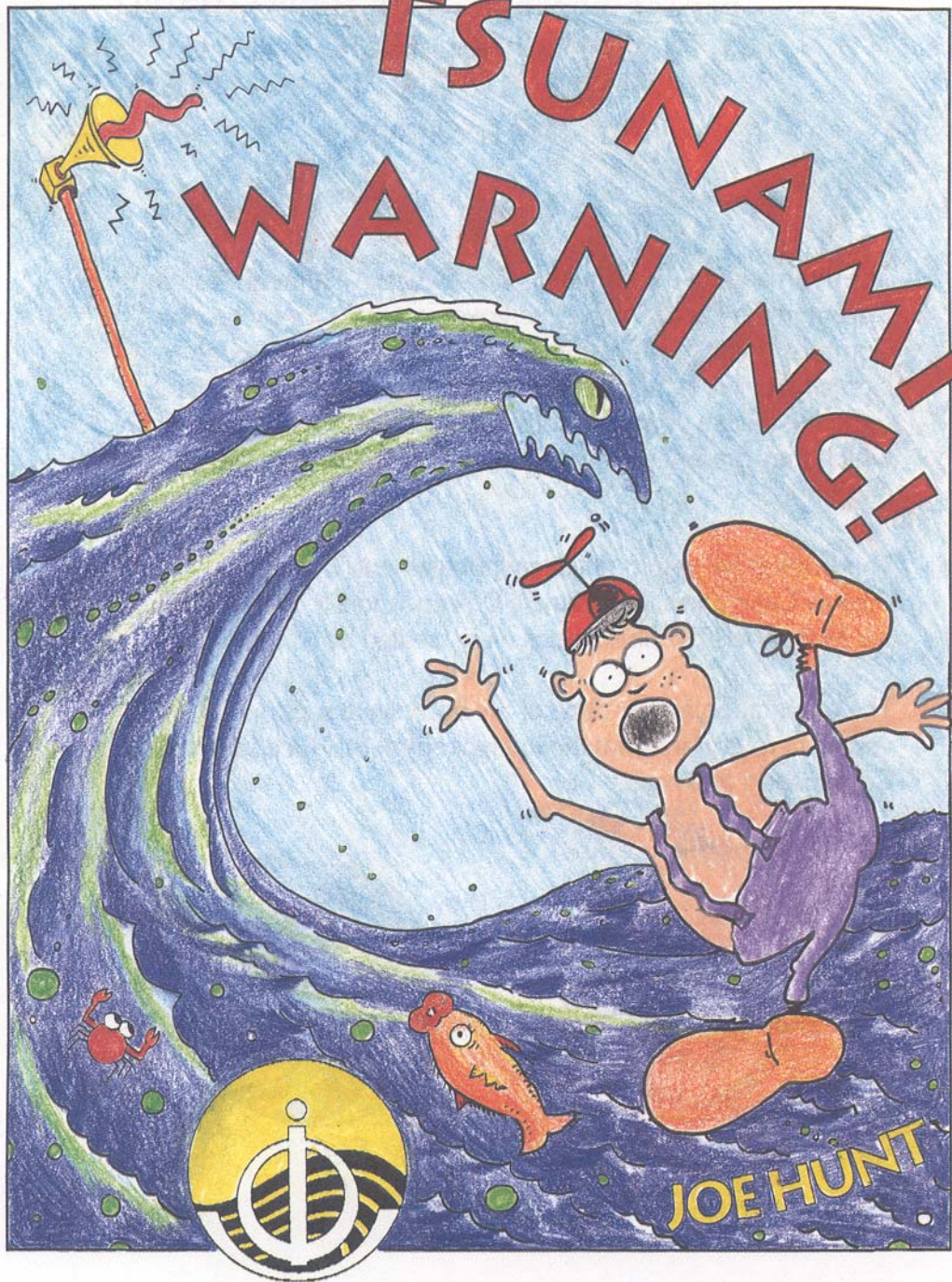


TSUNAMI WARNING!!



JOE HUNT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

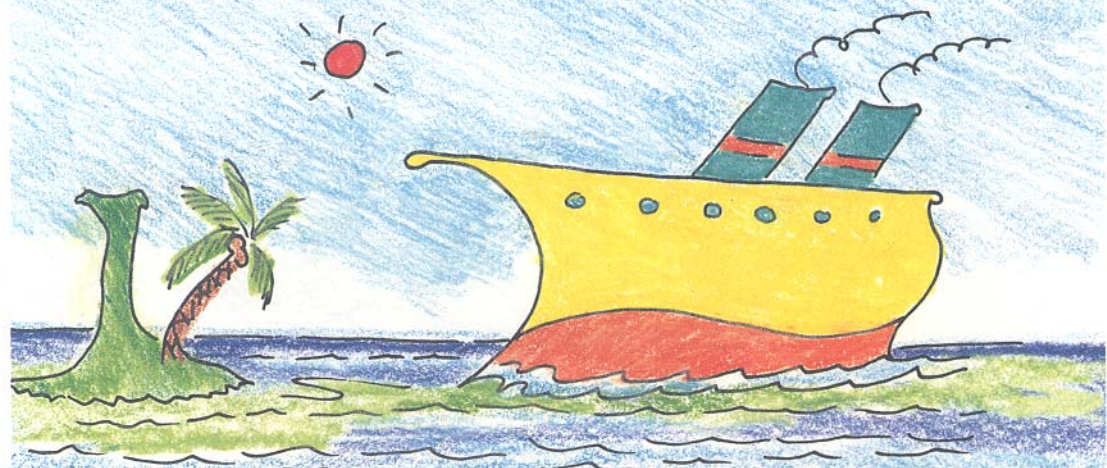
The International Coordinating Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, at its Thirteenth Session in Ensenada, Mexico (September 1991), encouraged the preparation of a book designed to inform young persons about tsunamis and the dangers which they present and what should be done to save lives and property.

This book is the result of that encouragement. Dr. George Pararas-Carayannis, Ms. Patricia Wilson, and Mr. Richard Sillcox are its authors. The illustrations were created by Mr. Joe Hunt.

The preparation and printing of the book were supported by a very generous grant from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of Unesco.



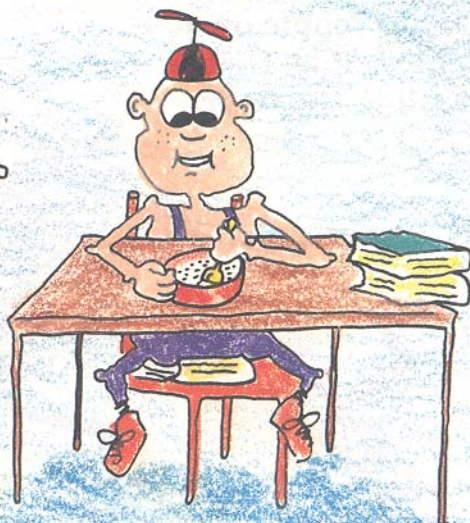
Web version scanned and assembled by
David Gronbeck-Jones
British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program



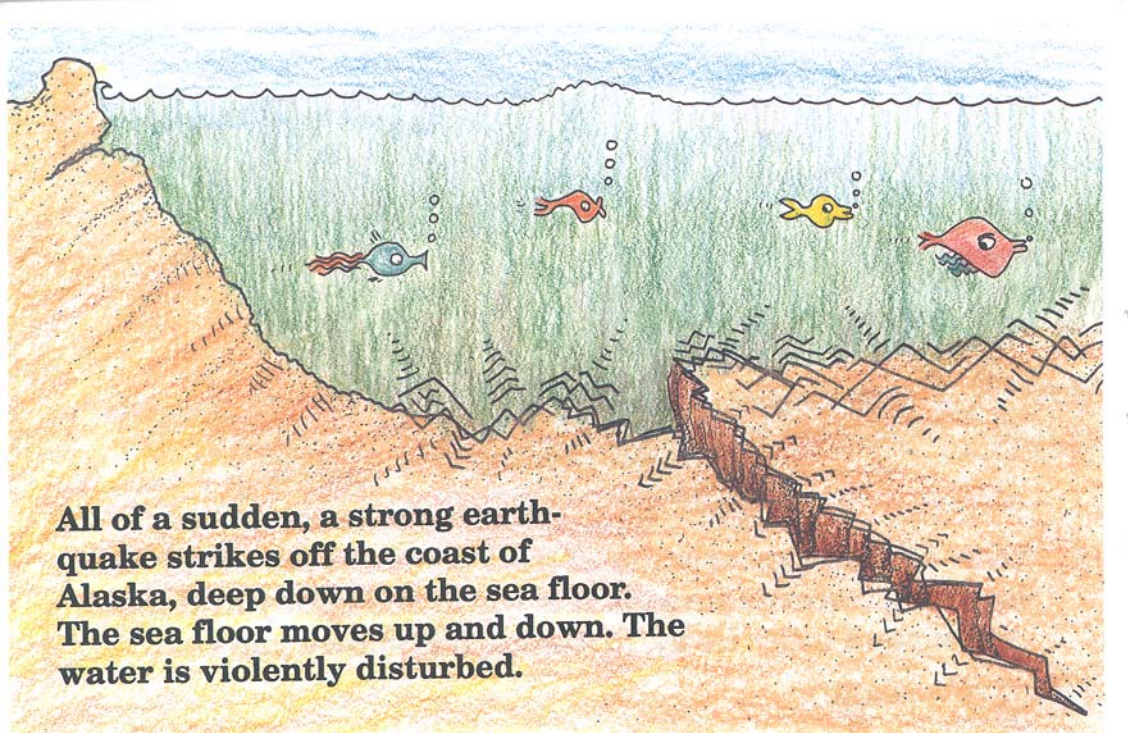
Over the blue, calm water of the Pacific Ocean, a cruise ship is sailing towards Hawaii. It is warm and sunny in Honolulu. A thousand miles away, in Alaska, it is snowy and cold.



It is breakfast time in Honolulu and in Anchorage Alaska. Parents are getting ready to go to work.



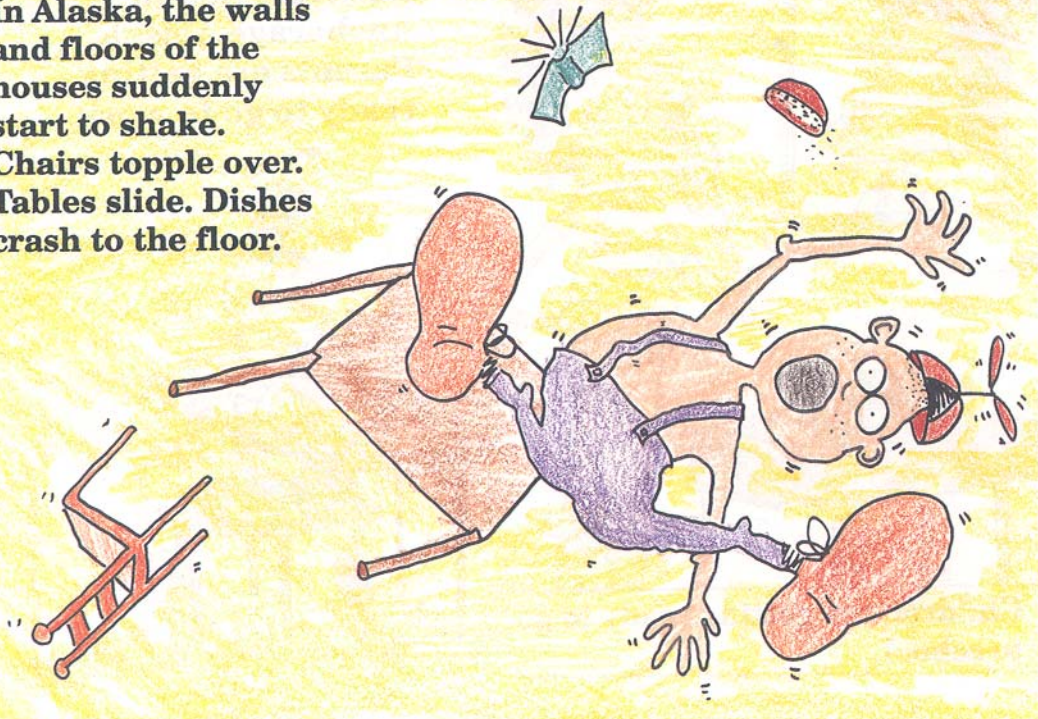
Children are getting ready to go to school.



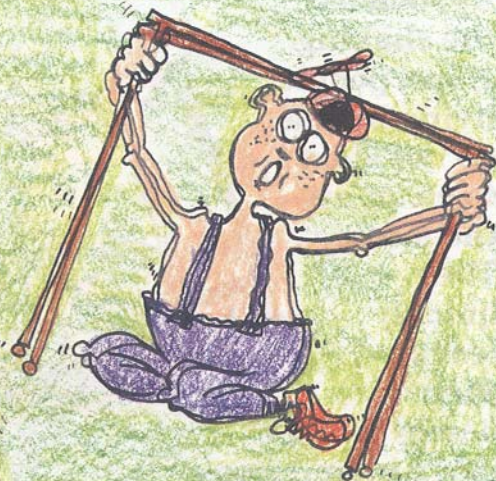
All of a sudden, a strong earthquake strikes off the coast of Alaska, deep down on the sea floor. The sea floor moves up and down. The water is violently disturbed.

The top illustration shows an underwater scene. On the left is a steep, orange-brown cliff. The sea floor is depicted with a jagged, zigzag crack running from the center towards the right. Several colorful fish (blue, orange, yellow, and red) are swimming in the greenish water above the crack. Bubbles are visible near the fish. The water surface is indicated by a wavy line at the top.

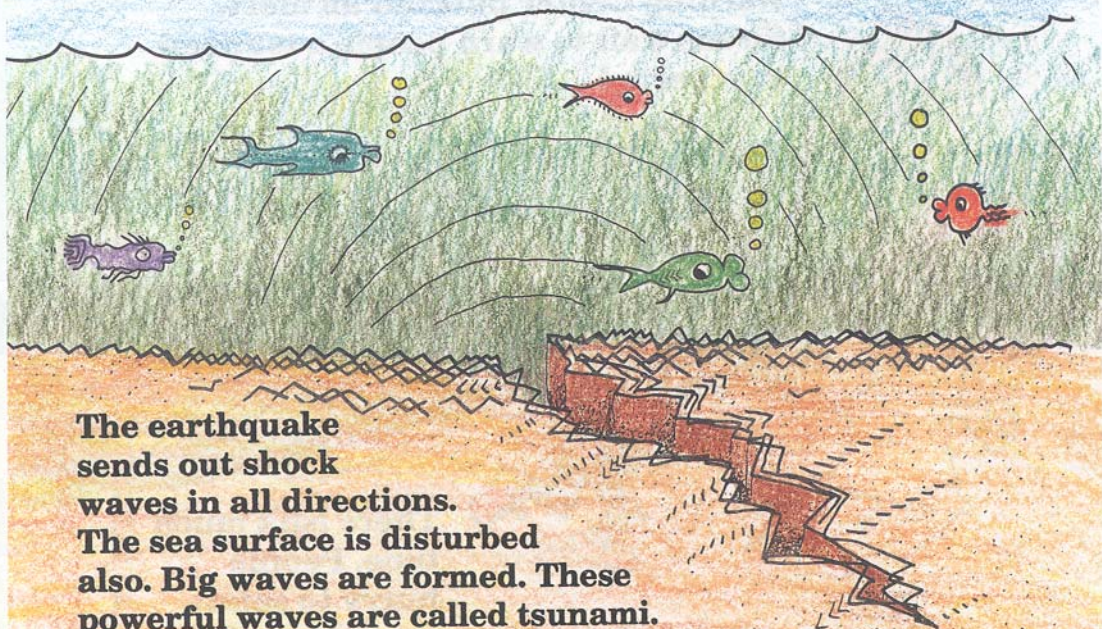
In Alaska, the walls and floors of the houses suddenly start to shake. Chairs topple over. Tables slide. Dishes crash to the floor.



The bottom illustration shows a man in a purple shirt and red cap falling backwards on a yellow floor. He is holding a large red cushion. A chair is tipped over to the left, and a small red object (possibly a shoe or a dish) is flying through the air above him. There are motion lines around the man and the furniture to indicate shaking or falling.

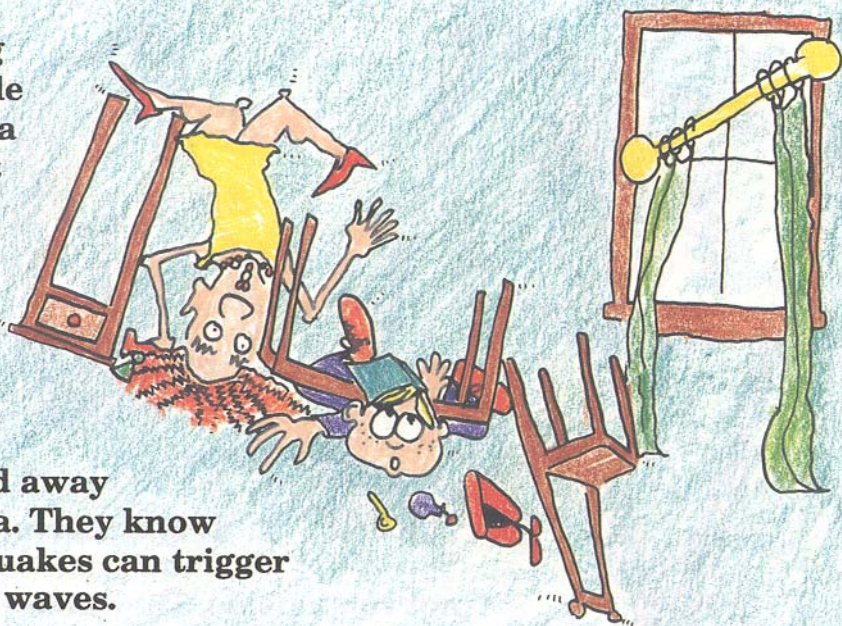


It is an earthquake. People know what to do. They do not run outside. They take cover under tables, desk, or in doorways.

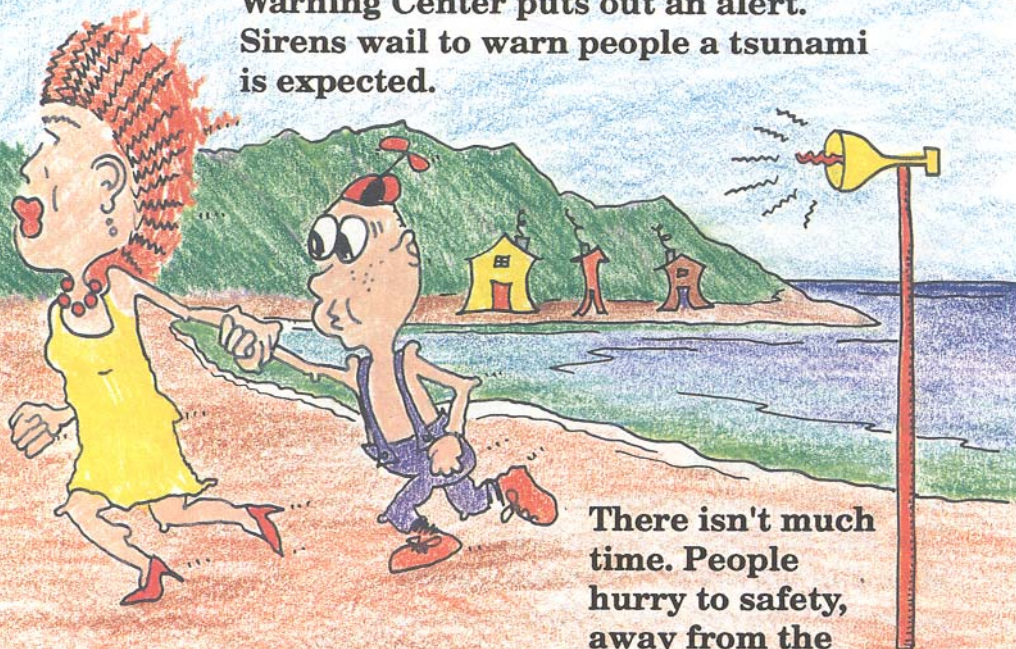


The earthquake sends out shock waves in all directions. The sea surface is disturbed also. Big waves are formed. These powerful waves are called tsunami. These waves travel fast across the sea. They are dangerous and they can kill.

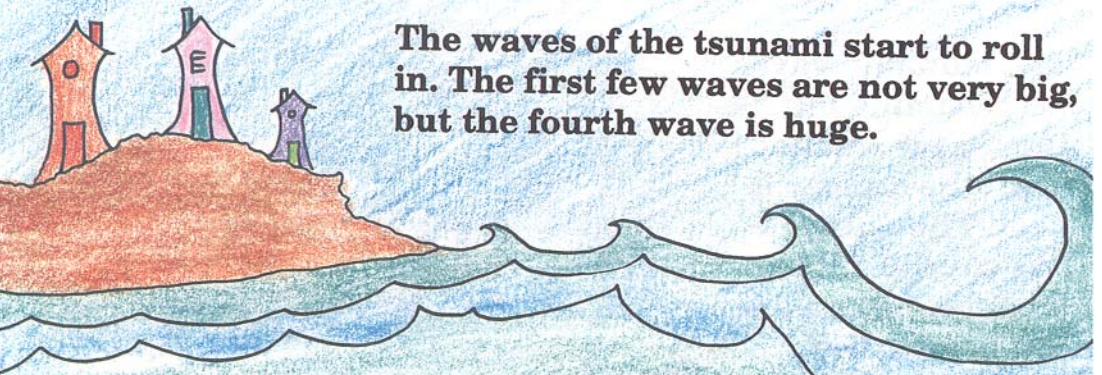
As soon as the shaking stops, people living by sea do not start to clean up the mess. They quickly leave their homes and move inland away from the sea. They know that earthquakes can trigger off tsunami waves.



The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center puts out an alert. Sirens wail to warn people a tsunami is expected.




There isn't much time. People hurry to safety, away from the shore and wait for the tsunami to come.

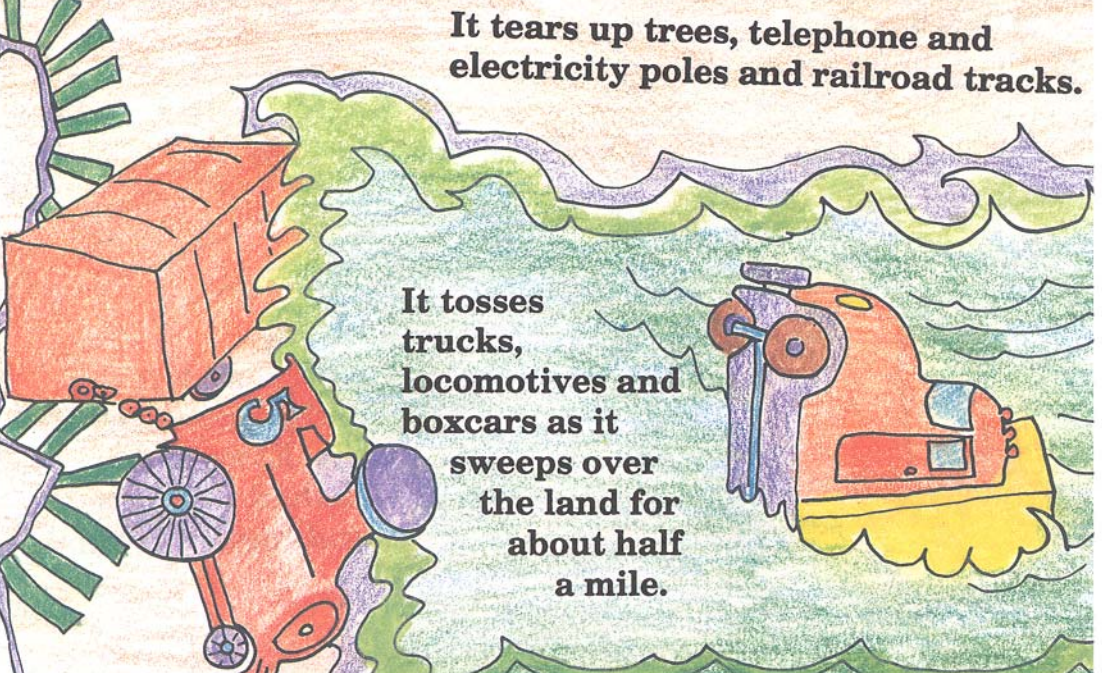


The waves of the tsunami start to roll in. The first few waves are not very big, but the fourth wave is huge.

Like a great sea monster, it crushes houses and buildings.

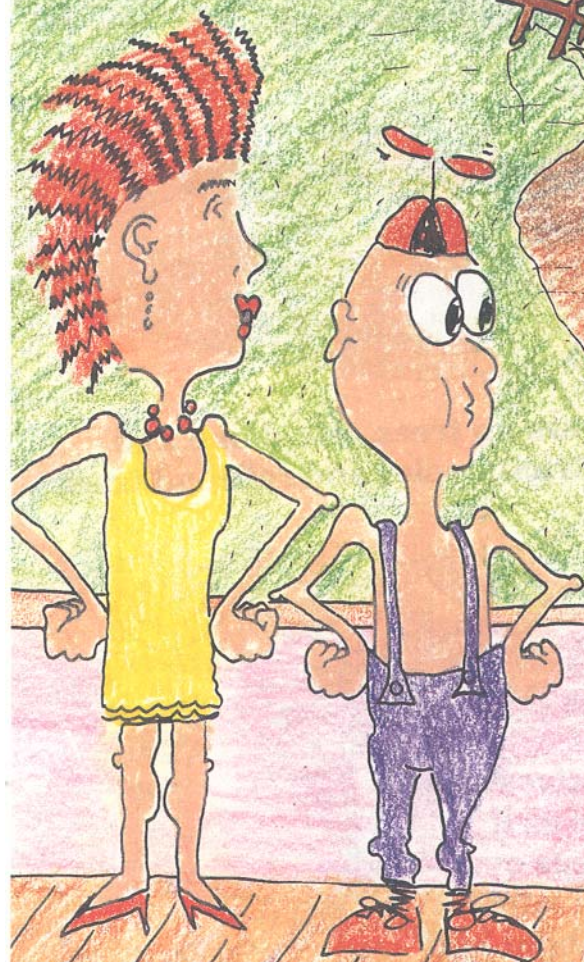


It tears up trees, telephone and electricity poles and railroad tracks.

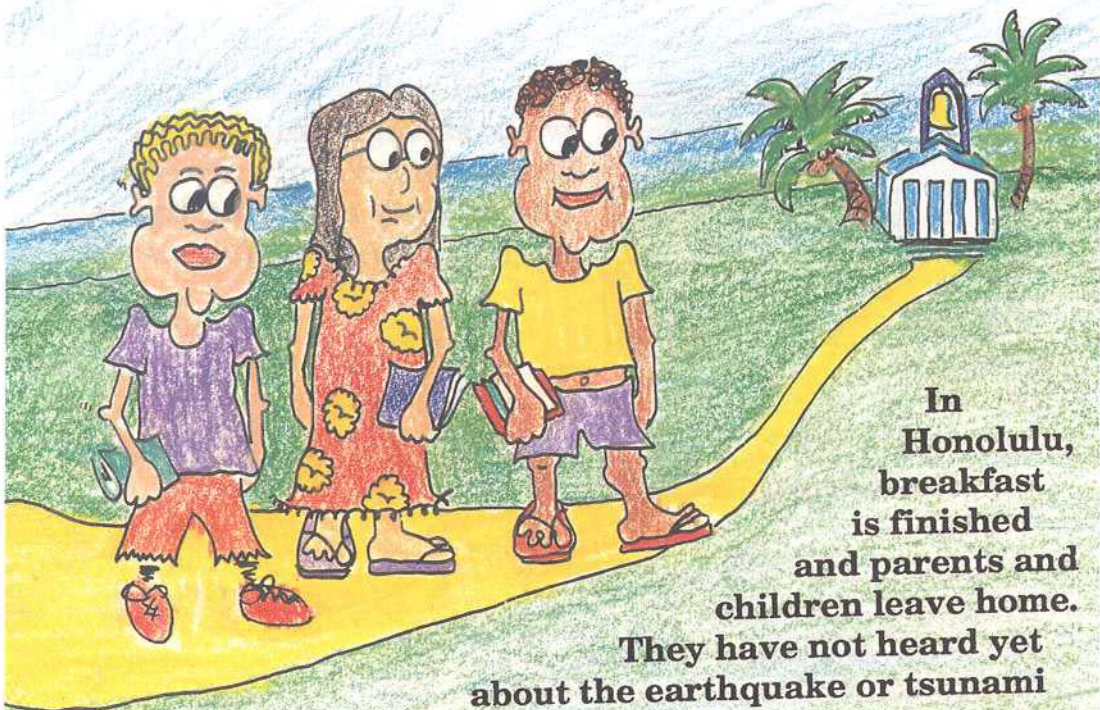


It tosses trucks, locomotives and boxcars as it sweeps over the land for about half a mile.

The tsunami waves keep coming but they grow smaller until the danger is over. The tsunami has caused a lot of damage, but no one has been killed.



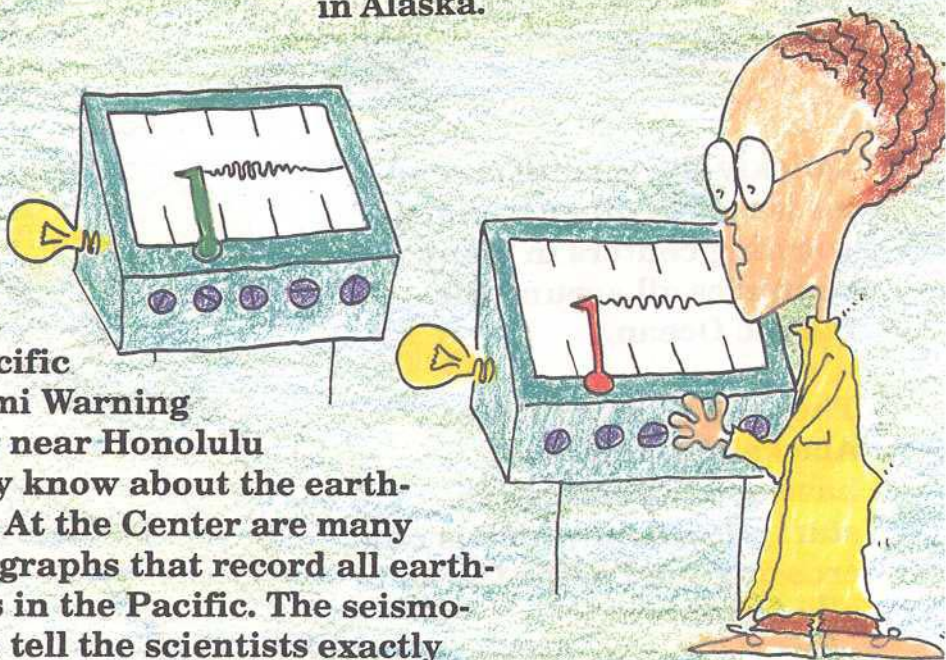
Everyone left the danger zones by the sea. Everyone rushed to safety and higher ground.



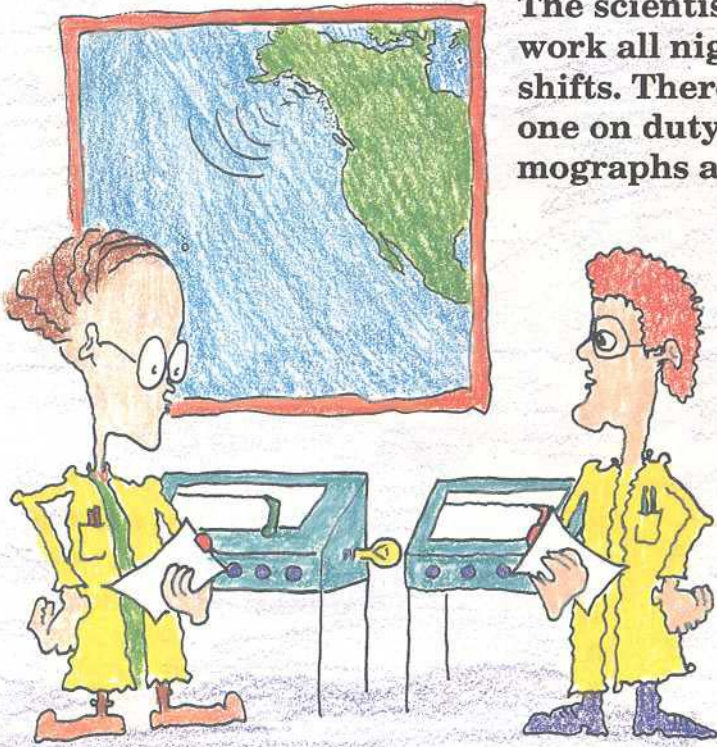
In Honolulu, breakfast is finished and parents and children leave home.

They have not heard yet about the earthquake or tsunami in Alaska.

But scientists at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center near Honolulu already know about the earthquake. At the Center are many seismographs that record all earthquakes in the Pacific. The seismographs tell the scientists exactly where the earthquake took place off Alaska and how big it was.



The scientists at the Center work all night and all day in shifts. There is always someone on duty checking the seismographs and keeping watch,



Quickly the scientists send messages to other tsunami warning centers in many countries all around the Pacific Ocean.

They tell them that the Alaskan earthquake has been big enough to start a tsunami which is now crossing the Pacific Ocean in all directions.

