

Chapter 2: The Tsunami

Comprehension Check

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Question 1: Say whether the following are true or false.

1. Ignacious lost his wife, two children, his father-in law, and his brother-in-law in the tsunami.
2. Sanjeev made it to safety after the tsunami.
3. Meghna was saved by a relief helicopter.
4. Almas's father realised that a tsunami was going to hit the island.
5. Her mother and aunts were washed away with the tree that they were holding on to.

Answer:

1. True
2. False - Sanjeev was swept away when he jumped into the water to rescue the wife of the guesthouse cook.
3. False - Meghna saw relief helicopters overhead, but they did not see her. She was brought to the shore by a wave.
4. True
5. True

Comprehension Check

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Question 1: Answer the following in a phrase or sentence.

Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Answer: Tilly's family came to Thailand to celebrate Christmas.

Question 2: Answer the following in a phrase or sentence.

What were the warning sign that both Tilly and her mother saw?

Answer: Both Tilly and her mother saw the sea rising and swelling up.

Question 3: Answer the following in a phrase or sentence.

Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?

Answer: Tilly's mother could not understand what was happening and only realised that it was serious when Tilly got frightened and mentioned what a Tsunami was.

Question 4: Answer the following in a phrase or sentence.

Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?

Answer: Tilly had seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion in a video of a tsunami (shown in her geography class) which had hit the Hawaiian Islands in 1946.

Question 5: Answer the following in a phrase or sentence.

Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami?

Answer: The Smith family and the others on the beach took refuge on the third floor of a hotel.

Question 6: Answer the following in a phrase or sentence. How do you think her geography teacher felt when he heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Answer: Tilly's geography teacher must have felt proud of her as she had made use of what she had learnt in class to help save so many lives.

Comprehension Check

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Question 1: Answer using a phrase or a sentence.

In the tsunami 150,000 people died. How many animals died?

Answer: Not many animals died.

Question 2: Answer using a phrase or a sentence.

How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

Answer: Sixty visitors and only two water buffaloes died at the Yala National Park.

Question 3: Answer using a phrase or a sentence.

What do people say about the elephants of Yala National Park?

Answer: The people at the Yala National Park had seen three elephants running away from the Patanangala beach about an hour before the tsunami hit.

Question 4: Answer using a phrase or a sentence.

What did the dogs in Galle do?

Answer: The dogs at Galle refused to go out for their daily run on the beach.

Working with Text

Question 1: When he felt the earthquake, do you think Ignesium immediately worried about a tsunami? Give reasons for your answer. Which sentence in the text tells you that the Ignesium family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck?

Answer: No, Ignesium did not suspect a tsunami when he felt the tremors. He took his television set and placed it on the ground so that it would not fall and break. This shows that he did not get worried of a tsunami immediately. Otherwise, he would have rushed out of the house at the first instant. The sentence in the text which shows that the Ignesium family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck is: 'in the chaos and confusion, two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother's father and mother's brother, and rushed in the opposite direction.'

Question 2: Which words in the list below describe Sanjeev, in your opinion?
(Look up the dictionary for words that you are not sure of.)

cheerful	ambitious	brash	brave	careless
heroic	selfless	heartless	humorous	

Use words from the list to complete the three sentences below.

(i) I don't know if Sanjeev was cheerful, _____ or _____.

(ii) I think that he was very brave, _____ and _____.

(iii) Sanjeev was not heartless, _____ or _____.

Answer: The words that would describe Sanjeev are brave, heroic, and selfless.

(i) I don't know if Sanjeev was cheerful, ambitious or humorous.

(ii) I think that he was very brave, heroic and selfless.

(iii) Sanjeev was not heartless, brash or careless.

Question 3: How are Meghna and Almas's stories similar?

Answer: Both Meghna's and Almas' families were washed away. Both of them kept floating in the sea for days. Meghna floated in the sea for two days holding on to a wooden door. She was brought to the shore by a wave. Similarly, Almus climbed on to a log of wood and fainted. She woke up in a hospital. Both the girls were traumatised after the incident. While Meghna was seen walking on the seashore in daze, Almus does not talk about the incident to anyone.

Question 4: What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behavior? What would you have done if you were in their place?

Answer: Not taking her seriously, Tilly's parents could have tried to calm her down thinking that she had been frightened by something. As a result, they could have been washed away by the tsunami waves.

If I were in their place, I too would have listened to her and realised that there was a danger approaching. Consequently, I too would have rushed away from the beach.

Question 5: If Tilly's award was to be shared, who do you think she should share it with — her parents or her geography teacher?

Answer: If Tilly's award was to be shared, she should share it with her geography teacher who made her aware of tsunami in the first place. It was this awareness that helped her save so many lives.

Question 6: What are the two different ideas about why so few animals were killed in the tsunami? Which idea do you find more believable?

Answer: Many people believe that animals possess a sixth sense and know when the earth is going to shake. On the other hand, some experts believe that animals' more acute hearing helps them hear or feel the earth's vibrations. They can sense an approaching disaster long before humans can realise it. This second idea is more believable.

Working with Language

Question 1: Go through Part – I carefully, and make a list of as many words as you can find that indicate movement of different kinds. (There is one word that occurs repeatedly — count how many times!) Put them into three categories.

fast movement	slow movement	neither slow nor fast
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Answer:

fast movement	slow movement	neither slow nor fast
Earthquake	Floating	Walking
Rushed	Recede	
Tremors		
Swept		
Ran		
Fell		
Climb		

The 'fast movement' column has many more words as compared to the other two columns. This is because the story is about tsunami, which is a fast movement of waters. Due to tsunami, all the immediate actions are fast, such as running, climbing and sweeping away of people by water.

Question 2: Fill in the blanks in the sentences below (the verbs given in brackets will give you a clue).

(i) The earth trembled, but not many people felt the _____. (tremble)

(ii) When the zoo was flooded, there was a lot of _____ and many animals escaped into the countryside. (confuse)

(iii) We heard with _____ that the lion had been recaptured. (relieve)

(iv) The zookeeper was stuck in a tree and his _____ was filmed by the TV crew. (rescue)

(v) There was much _____ in the village when the snake charmer came visiting. (excite)

Answer:

(i) The earth trembled, but not many people felt the trembling.

(ii) When the zoo was flooded, there was a lot of confusion and many animals escaped into the countryside.

(iii) We heard with relief that the lion had been recaptured.

(iv) The zookeeper was stuck in a tree and his rescue was filmed by the TV crew.

(v) There was much excitement in the village when the snake charmer came visiting.

Question 3: Say whether the following sentences are in the Active or the Passive voice. Write A or P after each sentence as shown in the first sentence.

(i) Someone stole my bicycle. _____A_____

(ii) The tyres were deflated by the traffic police. _____

(iii) I found it last night in a ditch near my house. _____

(iv) It had been thrown there. _____

(v) My father gave it to the mechanic. _____

(vi) The mechanic repaired it for me. _____

Answer:

(i) Someone stole my bicycle. A

(ii) The tyres were deflated by the traffic police. P

(iii) I found it last night in a ditch near my house. A

(iv) It had been thrown there. P

(v) My father gave it to the mechanic. A

(vi) The mechanic repaired it for me. A