

Check Your Understanding: Tsunami

Name: _____



You are in northern California driving up highway 101 with your 82-year old grandmother. Suddenly you start seeing signs like this one, warning of tsunami dangers. Your grandmother has always been a curious sort, and she knows that you are taking an Earth Science class. She remarks to you: “Huh, is this sign saying that earthquakes cause tsunamis? I know earthquakes cause a whole lot of shaking sometimes, but I am not exactly sure how an earthquake could make such a big wave. What do you know about what causes tsunamis?” What do you say to your grandma, be sure to answer both of her questions!