

Overview:

Legends surrounding tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes are rare in the Kodiak and Aleutian region. In this lesson, students learn stories from the Aleutian arc that describe the seismic activity that may precede a tsunami.

Targeted Alaska Grade Level Expectations:

Science

- [3] SF1.1-3.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social, and personal perspectives by exploring local or traditional stories that explain a natural event.
- [4] SF1.1-3.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social, and personal perspectives by connecting observations of nature to a local or traditional story that explains a natural event (e.g., animal adaptation, weather, rapid changes to Earth's surface).

Objectives:

The student will:

- listen to legends from the Aleutian Arc that are related to earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis;
- write a tsunami story in the style of a legend; and
- illustrate a story related to tsunamis.

Materials:

- Crayons, markers or colored pencils
- VISUAL AIDS: "Legends 1-5"
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: "My Tsunami Legend"

Science Basics:

Legends are a way for societies to assign explanation to natural phenomenon. Inclusion of legends within a scientific explanation can show respect for students, their family and community. In addition, they can serve as a connection to student background and provide motivation for learning the scientific content.

Activity Procedure:

1. Explain that people sometimes use stories to explain things that do not have known scientific explanations. This type of story is called a legend and is passed down from generation to generation.
2. Show the VISUAL AID: "Legends" on a projector. Read the legends to the class. Remind students that a legend is a type of story that is used to explain something that happens that does not have a known scientific explanation. Ask students to identify the event that each legend explains.
3. Distribute the STUDENT WORKSHEET: "My Tsunami Legend." Instruct students to write and illustrate a 'legend' about a tsunami. Their legend should include an imaginative explanation for how or why tsunamis occur.
4. Ask students to share their work with each other.

Extension Ideas:

- Instruct students to act out each of the five legends in small groups.
- Investigate tsunami legends from around the world, then compare and contrast to Alaskan legends.
- Instruct students to take home their legends to share with family members.

Answers:

Illustrations and writing should indicate that the student understands the concept of a legend as it relates to tsunamis or seismic activity.

Name: _____

Student Worksheet

My Tsunami Legend


