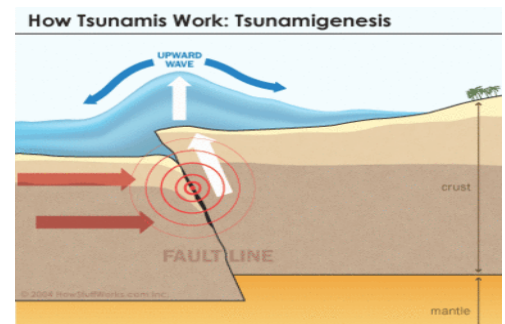


## Tsunami In Japan - WHY? - Louis – 1S

First of all we are going to define the term « Tsunami ». Tsunami is Japanese for “Big wave in the port”. It’s a very large ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption. In the case of Japan it is mainly provoked by underwater earthquakes.

### How are Tsunamis formed in Japan?

Japan is situated under two plates, the Eurasian and the Indian-Australian plate. They are situated under the water. The Indian-Australian plate moves under the Eurasian plate slowly and that creates tension and usually the tension has been built in a long period of time so there is a big amount of tension. The Eurasian plate separates from the Indian-Australian plate and suddenly comes back to his initial position, and because of there is a big amount of tension, when the plate goes back to his position it creates an earthquake. The earthquake is situated under water and therefor it makes a Tsunami (the level of water rises in a short period of time).



### What happens when the Tsunami hits the coast?



When a Tsunami hits a coast it takes away everything in its path such as boats, cars, (parts of) buildings, even people and much more. It destroys a lot of infrastructures and when people are taken away by the Tsunami they either drown or get hit by object in the water. Let’s take the

example of the disaster of the 11<sup>th</sup> march of 2011, in Fukushima. There was a big wave and it destroyed a lot although it wasn’t even the biggest problem: the wave hit two nuclear centrals which provoked explosions and radioactivity making for instance the growing of vegetables impossible, the water was not drinkable anymore and people couldn’t live there. The perimeter of security was 30 kilometers! So it can cause other problems too.

### How can they reduce the impacts of a Tsunami?

Since the beginning of times Japan is a very unstable place. There are lots of earthquakes and Tsunamis. Japanese try to reduce the impacts of those natural disasters. They prepare the population, some of the buildings such as schools are built to be solid so that if there is a Tsunami, people can take refuge in it. They also study the movement of the plates to know when an earthquake could happen. Japan has not reached the perfection of prevention, but at the same time it is very hard.