

Chapter – 2

The Tsunami

Comprehension Check

Q1. 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 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

Q2. Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

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

Q3. What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?

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

Q4. 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.

Q5. 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.

Q6. 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.

Q7. 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.

Q8. In the tsunami 150,000 people died. How many animals died?

Answer. Not many animals died.

Q9. How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

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

Q10. 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.

Q11. 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

Q1. Discuss the following questions in class. Then write your own answers. 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.

Q2. Which words in the list below describe Sanjeev, in your opinion?(Look up the dictionary for words that you are not sure of.)



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.

Q3. 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.

Q4. What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behaviour? 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.

Q5. 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.

Q6. 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

Q1. 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

Can you explain why there are many words in one column and not in the others?

Answer.

- Fast movement— Earthquake, Rushed, Tremors, Swept, Ran, Fell, Climb
- Slow movement — Floating, Recede
- Neither slow nor fast— Walking

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.

Q2. 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.

Q3. Study the sentences in the columns A and B.

A	B
Meghna was swept away.	The waves swept Meghna away.
Almas's grandfather was hit on the head.	Something hit Almas's grandfather on the head.
Sixty visitors were washed away.	The waves washed away sixty visitors.
No animal carcasses were found.	People did not find any animal carcasses.

Compare the sentences in A to the ones in B. Who is the 'doer' of the action in every case? Is the 'doer' mentioned in A, or in B? Notice the verbs in A: 'was swept away', 'was hit', 'were washed away', 'were found'. They are in the passive form. The sentences are in the Passive Voice. In these sentences, the focus is not on the person who does the action. In B, the 'doer' of the action is named. The verbs are in the active form. The sentences are in the Active Voice. 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

Speaking And Writing

Q1. Suppose you are one of the volunteers who went to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for relief work after the tsunami. You work in the relief camps, distributing food, water and medicine among the victims. You listen to the various stories of bravery of ordinary people even as they fight against odd sto bring about some semblance of normalcy in their lives. You admire their grit and determination. Write a diary entry. You may start in this way. 31 December, 2004 The killer tsunami struck these islands five days ago. But the victims are being brought in even now. Each one has a story to tell...

Answer. The killer Tsunami struck these islands five days ago. But the victims are being brought in even now Each one has a story to tell. I met three kids of the age group between 10-14 who lost their mother, two brothers and their grandfather and uncle. They survived with their father who is manager in a cooperative society in Katchal. They said their brothers caught hold of their grandfather and uncle and were swept away. Similarly, their mother was also washed away by a giant wave. 10-year-old Meghan was brought by the rescue team two days ago from the shore where she was walking in a daze. She along with her family and 77 other people was washed away by Tsunami but she was the only lucky fellow to get life. She was floating on a wooden door for two days. Almas, a 10 years old school girl from Port Blair, is still traumatised who lost her parents grandfathers her aunts and was also washed away by the waves but somehow got a wooden log and saved her life. But what's the use? she has lost

every beloved one and is now an orphan. "Destiny plays an important role in life" This line comes in practical here on the islands of Andaman and Nicobar. There are dead bodies, chaos, fear, cries and despair spread everywhere.

Q2. The story shows how a little girl saved the lives of many tourists when a tsunami struck the beach, thanks to the geography lesson that she had learnt at school. She remembered the visuals of a tsunami and warned her parents. Do you remember any incident when something that you learnt in the classroom helped you in some way outside the classroom? Write your experiences in a paragraph of about 90–100 words or narrate it to the whole class like an anecdote.

Answer. I was going to my grandparent's home along with my parents by a car. I was very excited and desperate to meet them as I was going after one year. On the way we were singing, eating and enjoying music. Suddenly the driver stopped the car. We found a man lying on the road. We got down to see. He was a middle aged well-dressed man lying with his motorcycle. He was having pain in the chest. I suddenly remembered my science lesson which I had heard that he has pain on the left side of chest, sweats, a lot and has difficulty in moving and breathing. I remembered the first aid to be given in such condition which my teacher has taught us in the class. I gave him the first aid. He felt better then I asked my father to lift him and take him to the hospital in our car.