DISASTER ZONE

TSUNAMIS



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CHAPTER 1

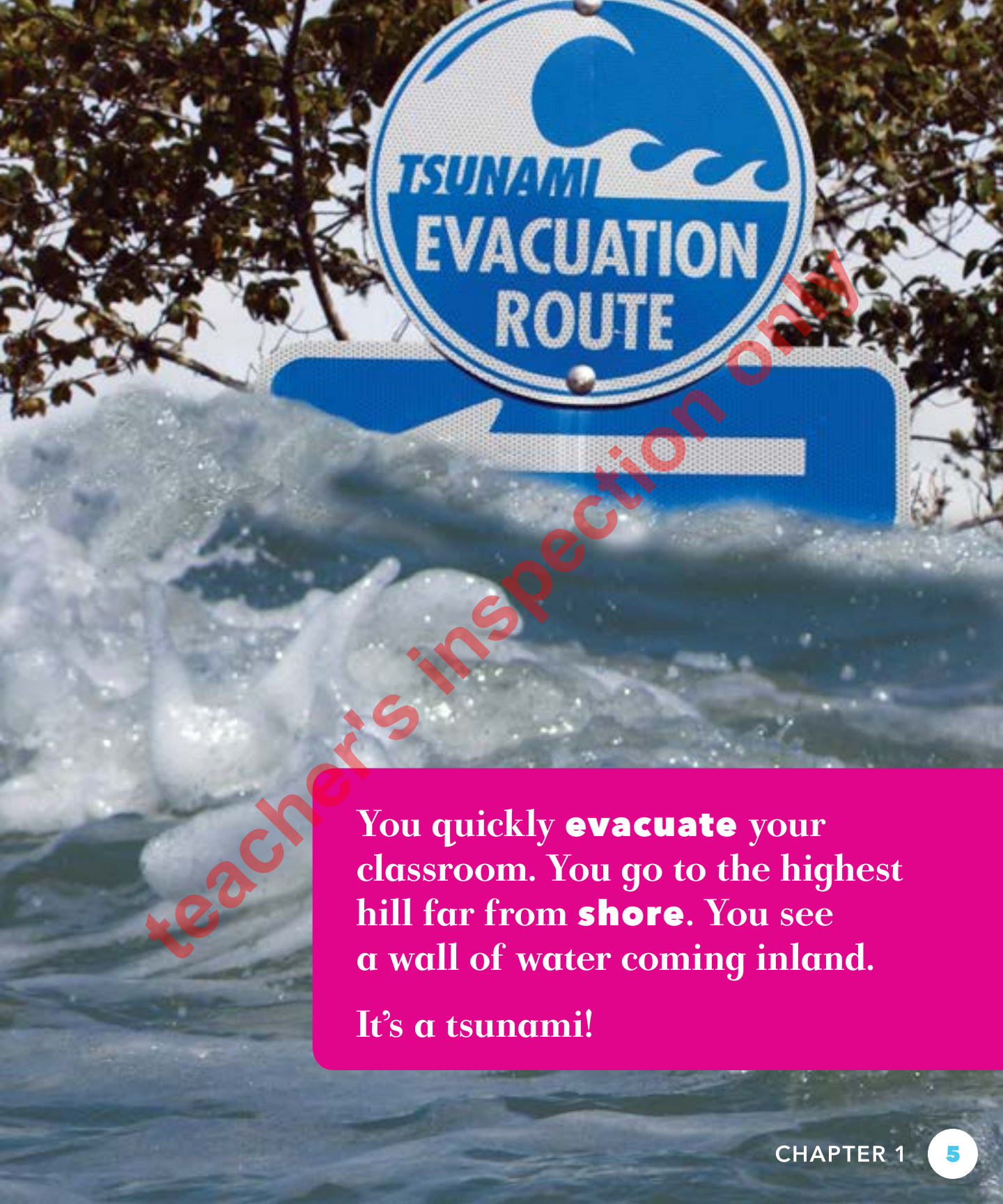
IT'S A TSUNAMI!

Imagine you live in Hawaii. You are sitting at your desk at school. A siren goes off.

You know what to do.



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You quickly **evacuate** your classroom. You go to the highest hill far from **shore**. You see a wall of water coming inland.

It's a tsunami!

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The huge wave crashes into shore. It contains millions of tons of water. Cars float away. Trees snap. Buildings **topple**.

Debris is everywhere. The land and everything in its path is crushed or swept away. People run away from the water. Not everyone makes it.



DID YOU KNOW?

Tsunami waves can reach over 100 feet (30.5 meters) high! That's about as tall as a nine story building!

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CHAPTER 2

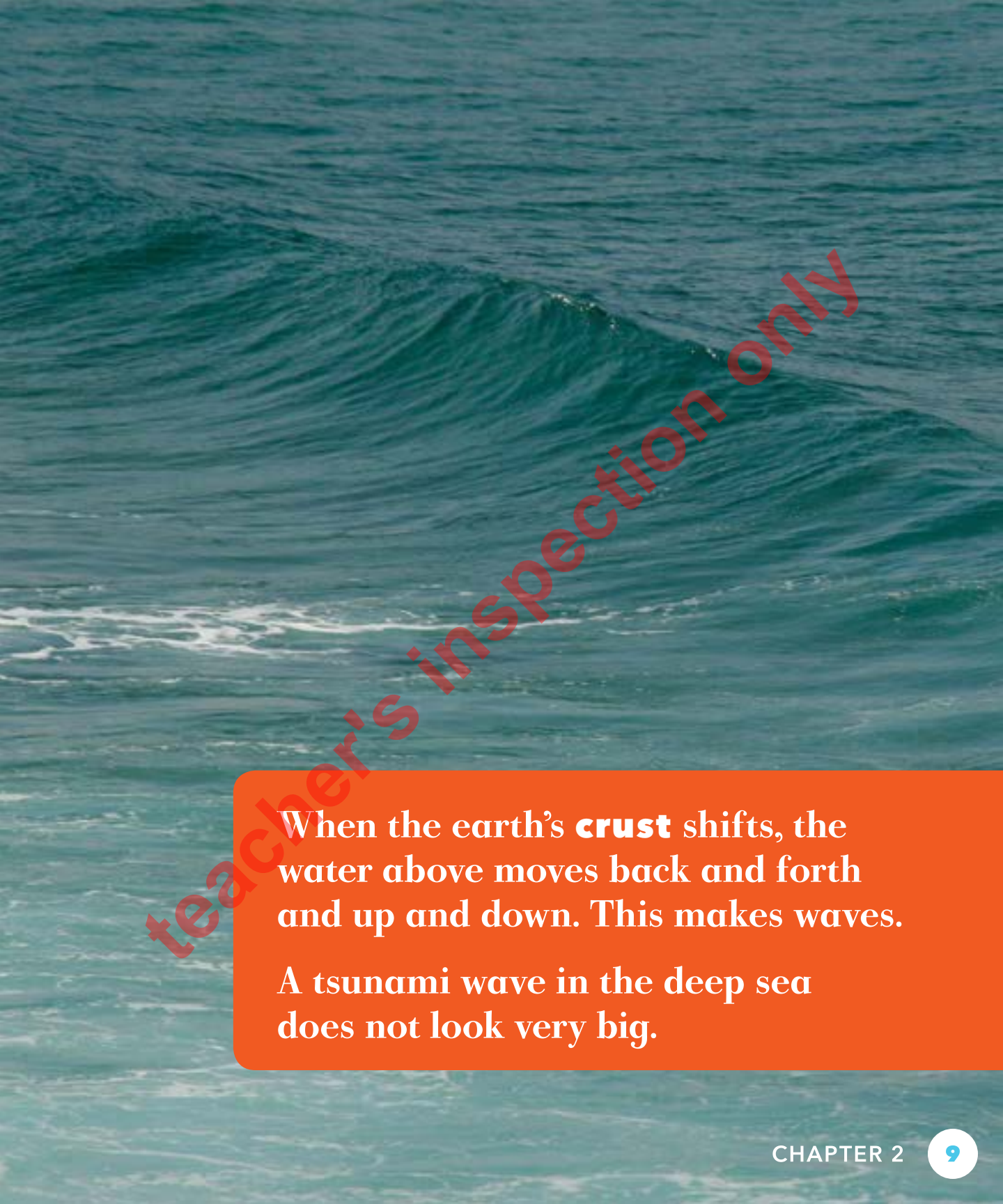
HOW DO TSUNAMIS FORM?

Most tsunamis are caused by underwater **earthquakes**.

Tsunamis can also be caused by **volcanic eruptions** and **landslides**.



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When the earth's **crust** shifts, the water above moves back and forth and up and down. This makes waves.

A tsunami wave in the deep sea does not look very big.

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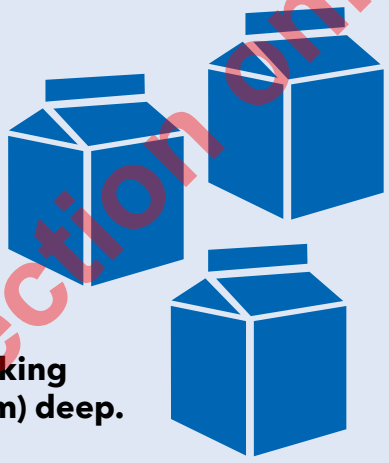
ACTIVITIES & TOOLS

TRY THIS!

MAKE A TSUNAMI

Want to see for yourself how a tsunami works? Make one yourself!

- one 11 x 13 inch (28 x 33 centimeter) baking pan
- wet sand
- three empty small milk cartons
- card table



1. **Put wet sand into the left side of a baking pan so that it is about one inch (2.5 cm) deep. Leave the right side empty.**
2. **Place small milk cartons on the sand; they are your houses.**
3. **Put water on the empty side of the baking pan.**
4. **Put the pan on a card table.**
5. **Shake the table.**

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GLOSSARY

crust: The hard, rocky layer covering the earth's surface.

debris: Broken pieces of buildings, homes, machines, and other objects.

earthquake: A shaking or trembling of the ground caused by movement of the earth's crust.

evacuate: To leave a dangerous place for someplace safer.

landslide: A large amount of rocks and earth that suddenly moves down the side of a hill or mountain.

Ring of Fire: An area along the Pacific Coast where several plates come together; the region is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.

shore: The land along the edge of a body of water.

topple: To fall over.

volcanic eruption: When liquid rock from within the earth explodes forcefully through the crust.



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