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Activities

Tsunami Warning System

Name: _____ Date: _____

On December 26, 2004, a powerful earthquake off the coast of Indonesia sent a massive tsunami racing across the Indian Ocean. It became one of the worst natural disasters to ever strike our planet. Most likely, it wouldn't have been as deadly if a tsunami warning system had been in place. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll take a look at one type of warning system that could save lives next time a tsunami hits.

Directions

- Start with a look at this animation of the spread of the Indonesia tsunami. Answer Workspace question 1.
- View NOAA's DART II tsunami warning system. If you miss the beginning, click reload to see it again. Answer question 2.
- Click *Trigger Mode* to learn how the parts of the system work together to warn against a tsunami. Notice the steps alerting different parts of the system. Answer questions 3 through 5.
- Where are DART buoys found? Check out the National Data Buoy Center real-time map. The DART buoys are shown in red on the map. Roll your mouse over a buoy to view real-time data. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. Why do you think nations surrounding the Indian Ocean had the worst destruction from the 2004 tsunami?

2. List the three main parts of the DART system.Where is each part found?

3. When a tsunami strikes, what is the first step in the system's response?

4. What is the second step?

5. What is the third step?

6. The graph of buoy data goes up and down twice every day, even without a tsunami. Explain why.

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