

Point of View Practice: The Tsunami of 2004

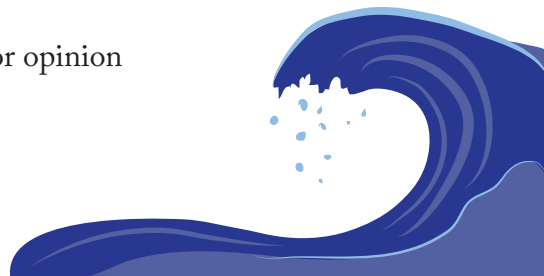
Directions: Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

★ In an informational text, the author shares his or her point of view.

The **point of view** is also known as the author's personal attitude, feelings, or opinion on the subject.

When you read, ask yourself:

- What point is the author trying to make?
- What does he or she believe about the topic?
- What evidence does the author give to support his point of view?



The Tsunami of 2004

A massive tsunami rose from the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004. This tsunami was one of the most destructive natural disasters anyone had ever seen before. Where did these huge waves come from? Why did this tsunami hit so quickly?

A tsunami is a rise of seawater. It causes damage on coasts. It can barely be noticed in deep water, so warning the people on land is difficult. A tsunami in deep water is basically harmless. But it has the opposite effect on people near the coast.

There are different causes of tsunamis. Tsunamis are mostly caused by earthquakes. The earthquakes that cause tsunamis happen underwater. It is never clear whether the earthquake will result in a tsunami or not.

On December 26, 2004, 14 countries were hit by tsunamis. They happened after a major earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean. The effects were devastating. Over 250,000 people lost their lives. Many communities near the coast had water rise up to 100 feet. Indonesia was the hardest hit country. Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand also saw massive destruction.

Sadly, the victims were taken by surprise. There was no tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean. The people living around the ocean did not know the tsunami was coming.

Luckily, some people saw signs when they were on the beach. Some of the water disappeared and the rest of the water became frothy and bubbled. The people who saw that were able to warn others. They left areas that were close to the beach.

Thankfully, warning systems exist in the Pacific Ocean. Tsunamis are more frequent in the Pacific Ocean. It is important that people are warned of such a dangerous natural disaster.

1. What is the author's viewpoint on the tsunami of 2004?

Text Evidence:

2. How would the text be different if it had been told from a survivor's point of view rather than this author's point of view?

3. How do you feel about this natural disaster? How does your viewpoint compare to the author's viewpoint?
