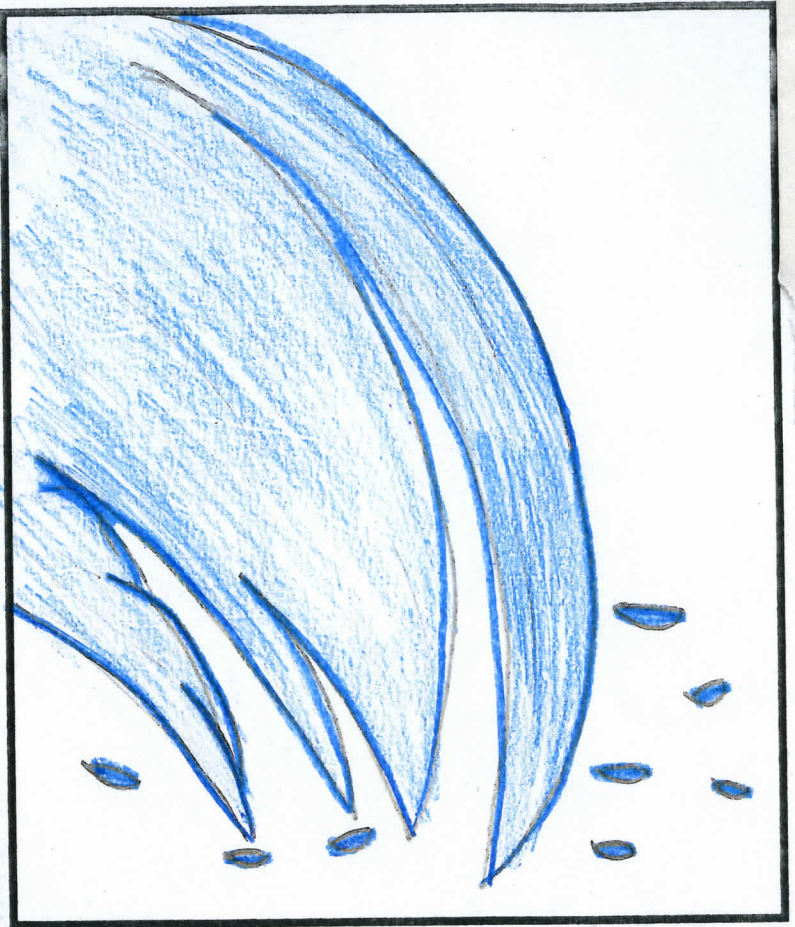


Japanese Earthquake

The Japanese earthquake started on the 11th of March at 2:46 pm. 10,000 people were killed and 20,000 people are still missing. 250,000 homes were destroyed, leaving families homeless and destitute. The initial earthquake lasted for about 3 minutes.



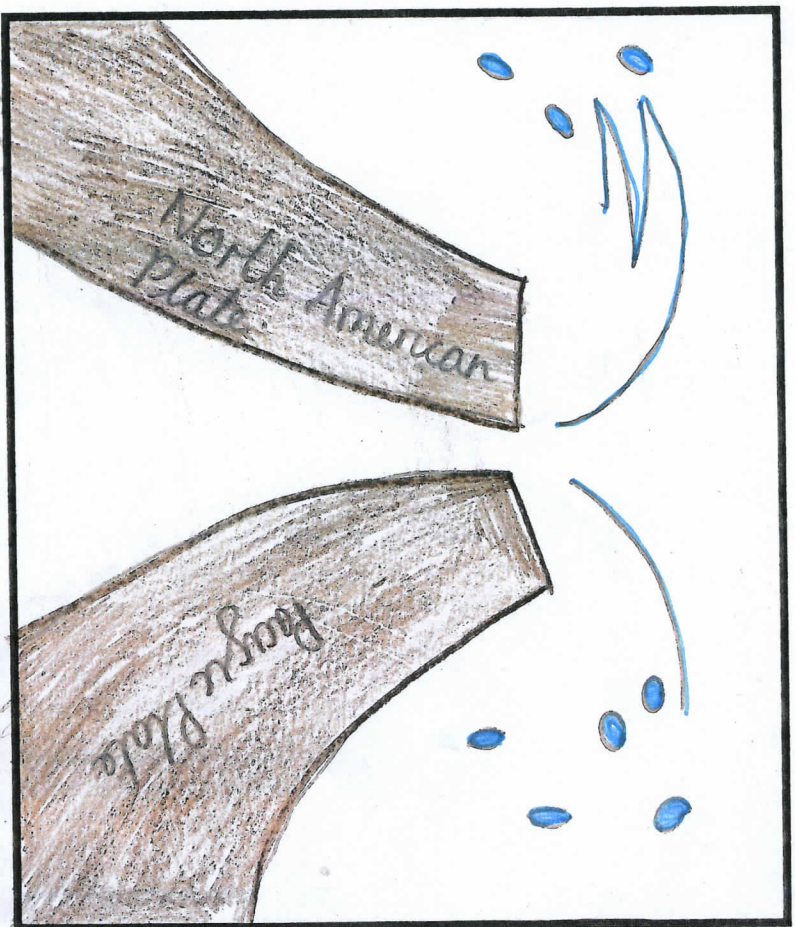
The earthquake was caused because of the Pacific plate subducting under the North American plate. The Pacific plate forced itself under the North American plate building up tons of pressure causing the Pacific plate to spring up extremely fast. Consequently, there was a huge earthquake; 9 on the Richter scale. There has been 700 aftershocks at up to 4 on the Richter scale since the earthquake.



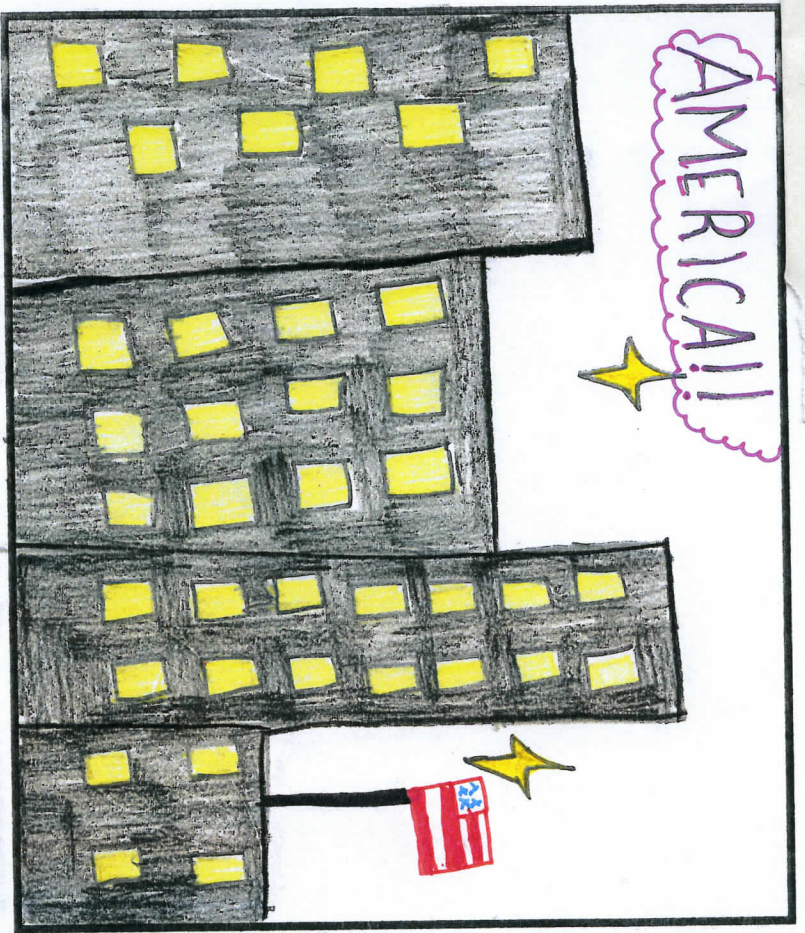
Tsunami

The tsunami hit Japan 24 minutes after the earthquake. There were 10 waves.

There was a kilometre distance between each wave. The waves were 17 metres high; high enough to go over the 10 metre wall built on the coast line! Out far at sea the waves were small and extremely fast (200 km). However when the wave reached shore because of the friction between the sand and sea the wave

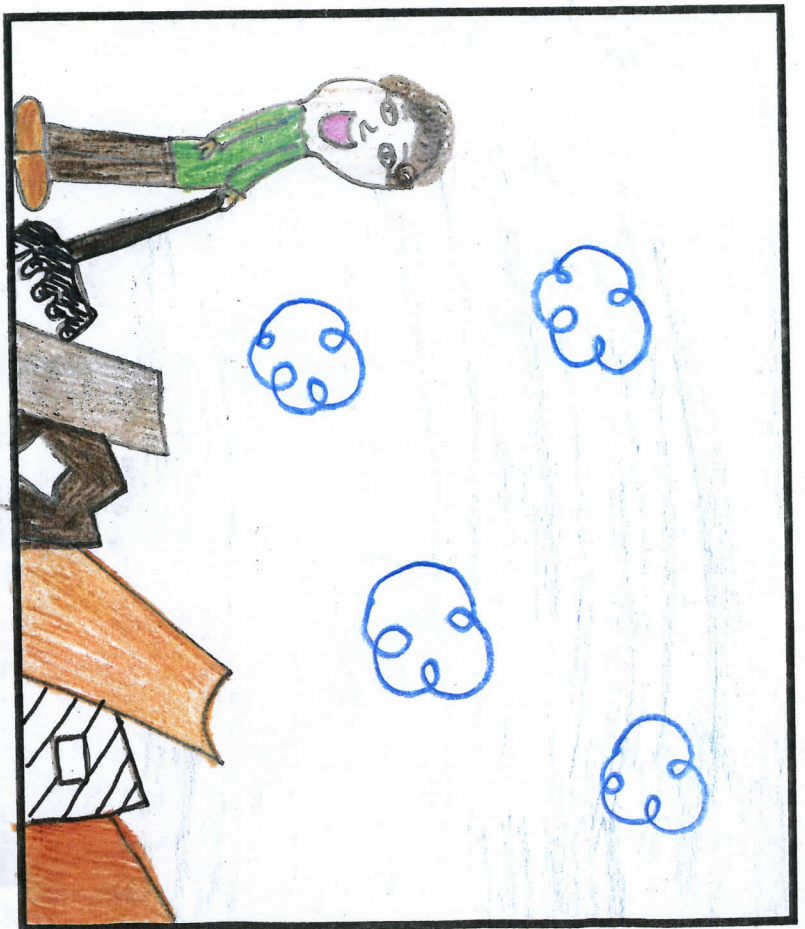


The tsunami was caused because when the Pacific Plate and North American plate slung up it caused water to turn into two waves. The first wave went to Japan and the second went around the earth 3 times !!!



Interesting facts

The Earthquake made enough power to power the whole of America for 50 days!
 The focus point (where the subducted plate plunges up) was 32 km under ground. The epicentre was Sendai. However the earthquake hit Japan's Tokyo too!



- There are 1500 earthquakes each year in Japan.
- The title wave came 10 metres in land!