

ACTIVITY: Tsunami Heroines and Heroes

Grades K - 2

Purpose: To meet Tilly Smith, a ten-year old modern day heroine and how her knowledge of tsunamis saved her own family and many other people during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. This activity reinforces the importance of education for young children.

Time: Allow 40 to 50 minutes to hear Tilly's story and discuss what she knew and how she helped others.

Educational Standards:

SS.1, SS.2.5, ESS1-1, ESS2-1, ESS.1.C, ESS3-1, R.1.2.1

See Additional Resources for Teachers – California Educational Standards for Kamome – under the Resource Menu for standard definitions.

Materials:

Computer with display screen and audio capability

Classroom copy of the Kamome Book

Meet Tilly Smith.pdf (print a copy or display on projection screen)

Stories of tsunami heroes heroines.pdf, Tilly Smith Kamome Talking to Children.pdf
(background information for teachers)

Go to Activity Menu to download PDFs

Teacher preparation: We suggest that you complete the The Wave a Japanese Folktale Activity prior to introducing Tilly Smith. It introduces the concept of natural warnings – that feeling an earthquake or observing unusual behavior of the ocean is a clue to a tsunami coming. You can learn more about the actions of children and ordinary people by reading PDFs in the Activity list.

Procedure:

1. Read Kamome story out loud, slowly. Ask students how the people in Japan knew that a tsunami might be coming? *Note: the Kamome story doesn't talk about tsunami warnings. But explain that in Japan even young children know that feeling an earthquake is a sign that a tsunami might be coming and to go to high ground or inland away from the coast.*

Show ***Meet Tilly Smith.pdf*** on your computer display screen or on a printed copy. Write on the white board her name Tilly Smith. Ask the class what they can tell about her from the photograph. They should note she is a girl, and she is probably 8 to 12 years old and write their observation below her name.

2. Listen to the podcast (1 minute 30 seconds): <https://www.khsu.org/post/shaky-ground-tilly-smith-child-hero#stream/0>

What new information did you learn from the podcast? (She was on holiday, in Thailand, with her family, saw the ocean change, told her parents, saved people.) Add these observations to your list.

Ask the class if they had the chance to meet Tilly, what questions would they want to ask her? Write their questions on the white board too.

3. Tell the class that, although we can't talk to Tilly directly, we can listen to her tell her own story. Play the YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0yrONL1Q3g>

After listening to Tilly, discuss whether she answered your questions.

What new information did you learn about Tilly and her actions from this video? Write them on the white board.

Did Tilly's parents believe her when she became concerned that a tsunami was coming?

What did Tilly do to save people's lives? (Told people a tsunami was coming, didn't back down when people didn't believe her, got people to get off the beach.)

4. Ask the class what the words 'heroine' and 'hero' mean. Do they know any heroes? What did they do that made them a hero?

Who does Tilly credit as being the real tsunami hero of her story? (Her teacher, for teaching her class about tsunamis.)

5. How can you use what you know about earthquakes and tsunamis to keep yourself and others around you safe?

Sometimes children know more than adults about what to do in an earthquake or tsunami. Tell them to encourage others to drop, cover and hold during an earthquake while doing it yourself. Show them the video of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ymellp1XCY>

Tell people with you on the beach to move to higher ground with you after an earthquake, especially one that shakes for a long time.

Extension Activities:

1. Learn more about Tilly Smith at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilly_Smith

2. Look at other stories of tsunami heroines and heroes – under Resource link, additional resources for teachers.

3. Go to ShakeOut Activities for more on earthquake preparedness.
See Kamome Website Activities K-2

4. Go to My Kamome Coloring Book Activity for more ways for young children to interact with the Kamome story and the illustrations.
See Kamome Website Activities K-2

5. See: *know your zone* on <https://www.tsunamizone.org/california/> for examples of tsunami zone signs and maps of tsunami areas in California. Show students where they are on the map and whether or not they are living in a tsunami zone.

6. Read the book *Sofie and Daniel Get Ready for Earthquakes* by Lin Glen (available in Humboldt County book stores and on Amazon) and build class "grab-n-go" kits.

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