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Research on the Internet

The Internet is a great way to look things up. You can find addresses or recipes, listen to music, or find things to do. You can look up information on hobbies, musical instruments, or read a magazine or newspaper online.

If you search the Internet on your own, make sure the website you find is reliable. A U.S. government site or a site produced by a well-known organization or publication is usually your best bet.

The best way to find websites is to use a search engine. Start by typing one or two search terms—words that describe your topic. The search engine scans the Internet and gives you a list of sites that contain them. The results appear in a certain order or rank. Search engines use different ways of measuring which websites are likely to be the most helpful. One way is by counting how many times your search terms appear on each site. The site that's listed first may not have what you want. Explore as many of the sites as possible. You might have to narrow your search by using fewer keywords.

Directions: Choose the correct answer.

1. When you do research on the Internet, you must be careful because you
   - (a.) need to be sure that the information on a website is reliable.
   - (b.) may not be able to use more than two search terms.
   - (c.) will be overwhelmed by the amount of information available.
   - (d.) can spend a lot of money to read a web page.

2. A search engine's job is to
   - (a.) tell you the best website for your particular needs.
   - (b.) give you a list of websites that have your search term(s) in them.
   - (c.) identify which websites are free to use and which ones cost money.
   - (d.) get rid of pop-up screen advertisements.

3. Which is a good research question for the Internet?
   - (a.) What are the answers to the arithmetic problems in my textbook?
   - (b.) What is my Aunt Ruth's coleslaw recipe?
   - (c.) What are the different breeds of hunting dogs?
   - (d.) What will be happening ten years from now in Alaska?

Tsunami!

Tsunami comes from two Japanese words: "tsu" (harbor) and "nami" (wave). These huge waves are sometimes called "tidal waves." But they have nothing to do with the tides. The strongest tsunamis happen when a big part of the sea floor lifts along a fault. This pushes up a huge volume of water. The resulting waves are long and low. They might not even be noticed in deep water. They move at speeds of up to 500 miles per hour. As they near shore, they slow down. The great energy forces the water upward into big waves.

Many tsunamis are small, but sometimes they can reach heights of more than 90 feet. That's as tall as a nine-story building! Tsunamis are most common in the Pacific Ocean. This is due to the earthquake activity associated with the Ring of Fire. A 9.0 magnitude earthquake triggered the Asian tsunami of December 26, 2004. It happened off the coast of Indonesia in the Indian Ocean. As of late March 2005, estimates of the dead or missing were around 300,000 people in 12 countries. These people were killed when the huge waves came unexpectedly on shore.

Directions: Choose the correct answer.

1. A tsunami is most often the result of a(n)
   - (a.) freak wave pattern.
   - (b.) strong wind.
   - (c.) massive storm.
   - (d.) earthquake.

2. In December 2004 a huge tsunami killed people in how many nations?
   - (a.) 12
   - (b.) 90
   - (c.) 500
   - (d.) 300,000

3. Tsunamis are so deadly because
   - (a.) they cause fires and explosions when they reach shore.
   - (b.) people refuse to get out of their way.
   - (c.) people don't have time to get out of their way.
   - (d.) they flip ships at sea upside down.