



The Asian Tsunami – Boxing Day 2004

Sequencing activity

Use the following statements to show the order of events that lead up to the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Pressure built up over many years until the plates began to slip

The waves were travelling at the same speed as a passenger aircraft – around 570 mph

Oceanic crust subducts under the continental crust

Onlookers went closer to the shore as the tide appeared to be going out very quickly

Heat currents (Convection) make the plates move

The earthquake happened 30 miles below the sea

Energy travels away from the focus of the earthquake

A massive earthquake (magnitude 9 on the richter scale) sent violent shockwave through the Indian Ocean

Use the cards to help you to write a short paragraph to explain why the tsunami happened.

Hint – Try to put them in order of events first. Remember to write the paragraph in your own words.