



QUESTION 12 Activity 2

JAPAN Earthquake & tsunami disaster, March 2011

- Japan's largest earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 hit the north-eastern region of the country on March 11, 2011.
- It was the most powerful earthquake ever to hit Japan and rated in the top five most powerful earthquakes in the world since modern record-keeping began.
- The earthquake triggered powerful tsunami waves, which reached heights of 40.5 m and in some areas travelled 10 km inland.
- The tsunami destroyed much of the Pacific coast of northern Japan and killed more than 15,000 people. There were 2300 expat Australians in the country at the time.
- The earthquake and tsunami caused extensive and severe structural damage (over 125,000 buildings damaged or destroyed), including heavy damage to roads and railways, fires in many areas, and a collapsed dam. An estimated 24 million tons of rubble and debris was created, a lot of which washed out to sea.
- Around 4.4 million households were left without electricity and 1.5 million without water.
- The tsunami created over 300,000 refugees in the Tōhoku region, and resulted in shortages of food, water, shelter, medicine and fuel for survivors.



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