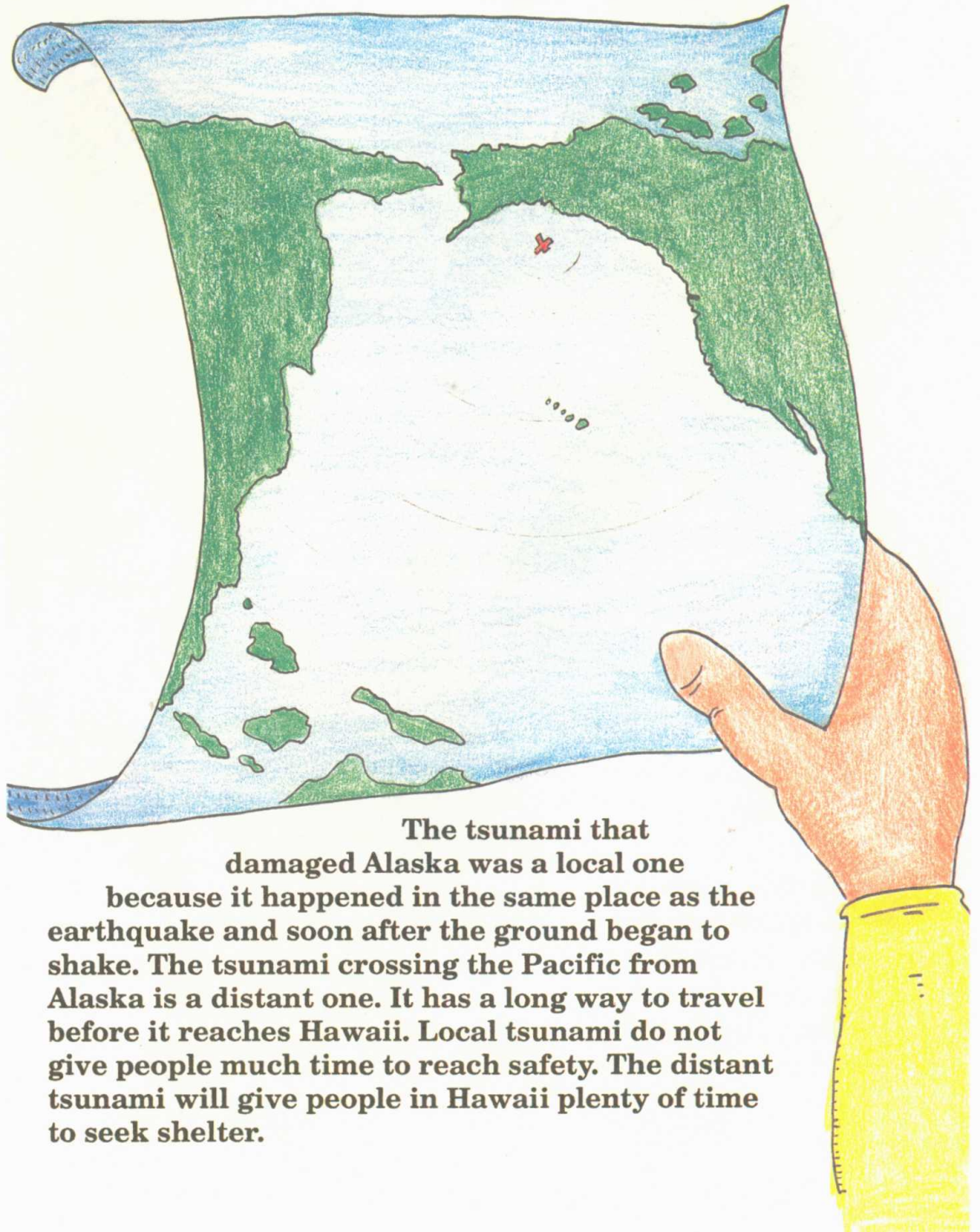
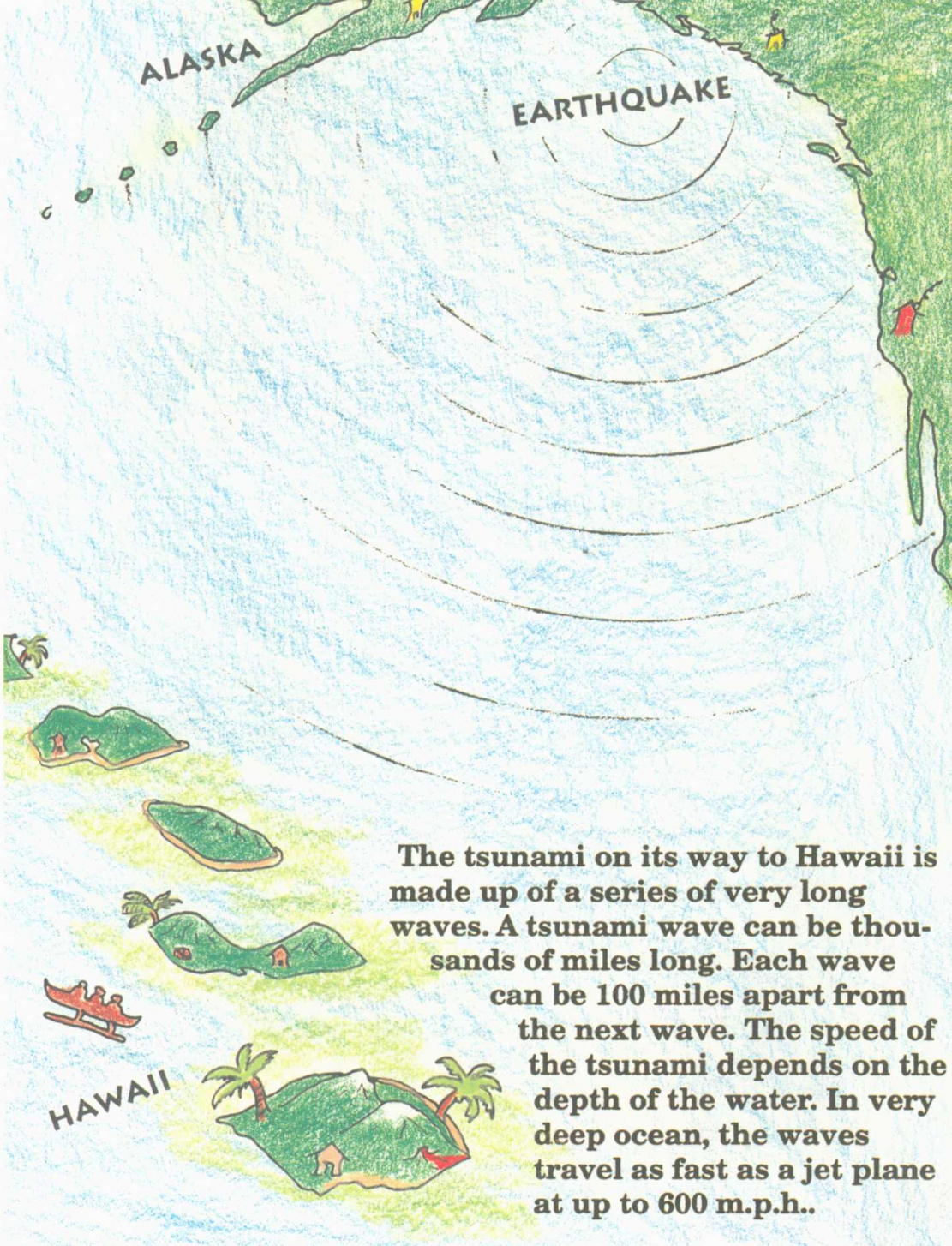
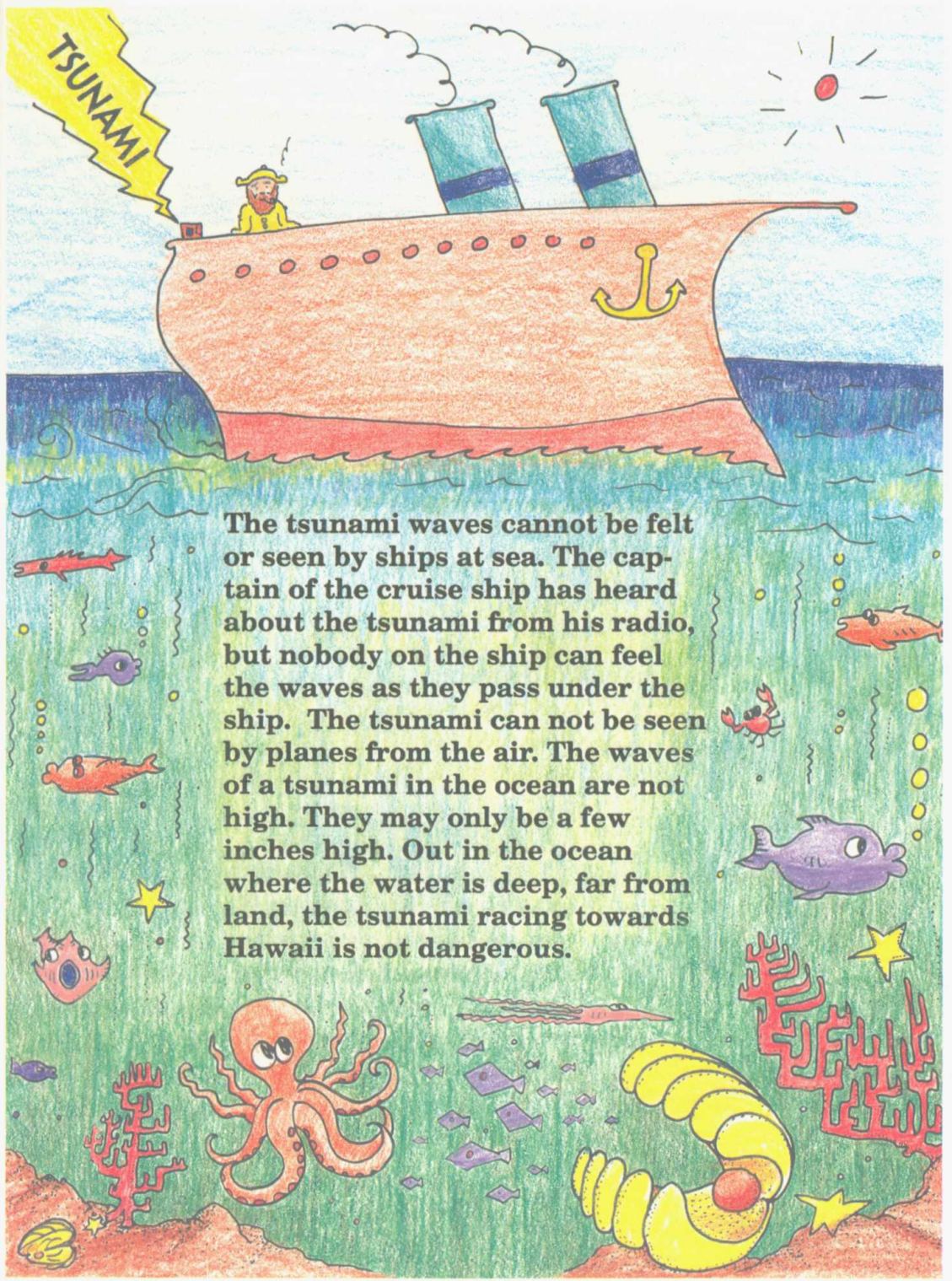


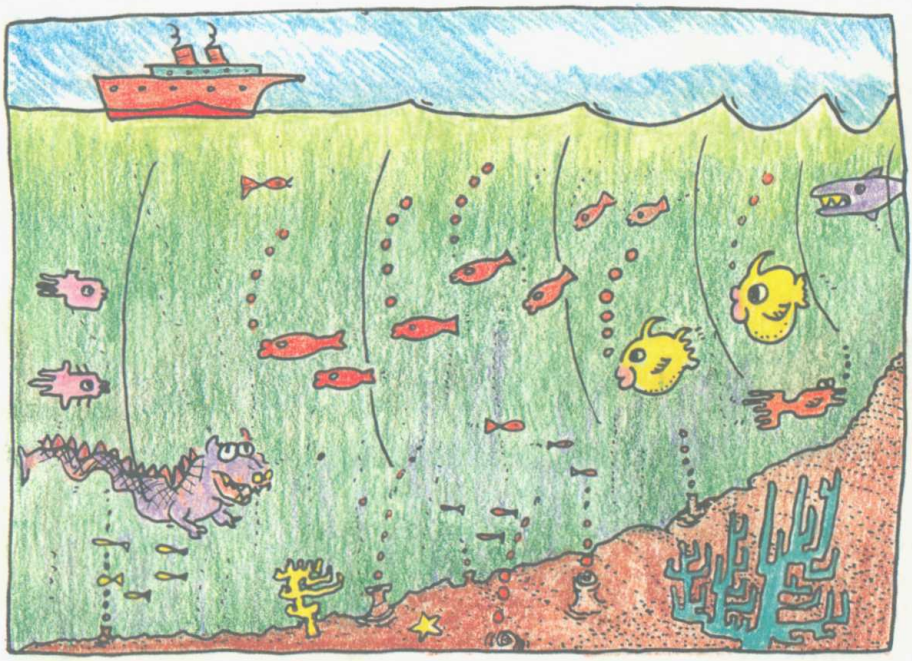
The tsunami that damaged Alaska was a local one because it happened in the same place as the earthquake and soon after the ground began to shake. The tsunami crossing the Pacific from Alaska is a distant one. It has a long way to travel before it reaches Hawaii. Local tsunami do not give people much time to reach safety. The distant tsunami will give people in Hawaii plenty of time to seek shelter.



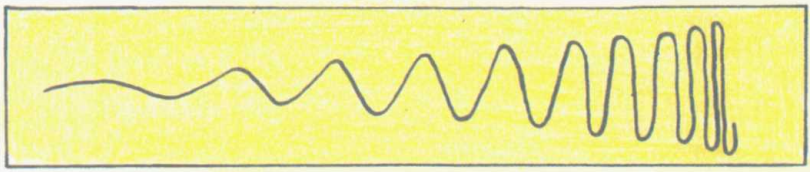
The tsunami on its way to Hawaii is made up of a series of very long waves. A tsunami wave can be thousands of miles long. Each wave can be 100 miles apart from the next wave. The speed of the tsunami depends on the depth of the water. In very deep ocean, the waves travel as fast as a jet plane at up to 600 m.p.h..



The tsunami waves cannot be felt or seen by ships at sea. The captain of the cruise ship has heard about the tsunami from his radio, but nobody on the ship can feel the waves as they pass under the ship. The tsunami can not be seen by planes from the air. The waves of a tsunami in the ocean are not high. They may only be a few inches high. Out in the ocean where the water is deep, far from land, the tsunami racing towards Hawaii is not dangerous.



But as the tsunami approaches land it becomes dangerous. The speed of the waves slows down in shallow waters. In 60 feet of water a tsunami travels at 30 m.p.h., the speed of a slow car. The problem is that although the first wave slows down in shallow water, the second wave is 100 miles apart and it is traveling faster. The result is that the distance between the waves does not remain at 100 miles. It grows smaller.



The waves are bunched up more together. This squashing together makes the waves taller.