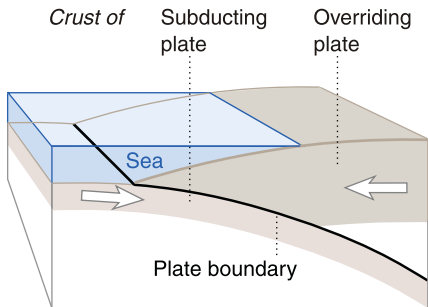
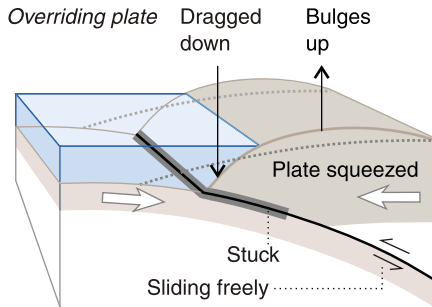


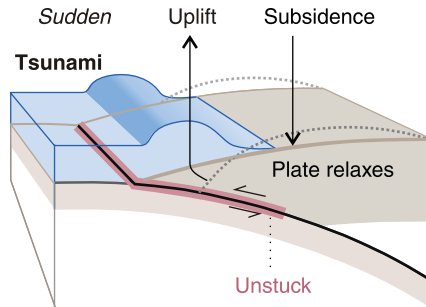
Subduction Zone Tsunami Cycle



OVERALL, a tectonic plate descends, or "subducts," beneath an adjoining plate. But it does so in a stick-slip fashion.



BETWEEN EARTHQUAKES the plates slide freely at great depth, where hot and ductile. But at shallow depth, where cool and brittle, they stick together. Slowly squeezed, the overriding plate thickens.



DURING AN EARTHQUAKE the leading edge of the overriding plate breaks free, springing seaward and upward. Behind, the plate stretches; its surface falls. The vertical displacements set off a tsunami.

From "The Orphan Tsunami."