Indigenous Oral Histories & Disaster Preparedness Knowledge

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Insert Thunderbird & Killerwhale video
Coastal Cascadia Oral Histories

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Tree-ring & Japanese-record estimated event time of January 26 1700, 9 pm

Oral-history-estimated event time of 1690 AD
Run to High Ground
Langi village, Simeulue Island, Indian Ocean

- Account by tsunami geologist, Lori Dengler of Cal State Humboldt
Thoughts & ideas

- Timeless/long-term region-wide stories that include a restless earth and ocean
- Oral history accounts that record specific event centuries-old
- Strong advice on how to live more safely in this restless location
Thoughts & ideas

- Stories and histories in many cases belong to the teller. Consideration and respect should be exercised in repeating stories.

- Native American cultures are very grounded in Place. Ex. “These lands are vital not only to our subsistence but also to our sense of being as Tlingit people.” (Gabriel George, 2008)

- Attributes of indigenous ways of knowing nature: place-based, non/material world are one, relational, mysterious (all is not knowable), observational not experimental, cyclical time.
References


- McMillan, A. D. and Hutchinson, I., 2002, When the mountain dwarfs danced: Aboriginal traditions of paleoseismic events along the Cascadia Subduction Zone of Western North America. Ethnohistory, v 49, n 1, p 41-68.


How would you use oral histories and native stories with your learners?