

50 sixth graders from Maimonides Academy, LA

Dec 7, 2012

Teacher: Katie Farley

Nina Lin

Three presentations, 10AM, 11AM, and 1:30PM (we had zero notice that they were coming. Nina Lin stepped in and handled all three presentations)

Nina:

This is a 45-min long presentation about tsunamis. I spent about half of the time talking about myself, why I came here, what I did in the past and what I'm doing at Caltech, and some state-of-art technologies.

The second half of the presentation is about tsunamis: the fundamental characteristics of these horrifying waves and how they differ from other normal waves.

After the first two presentations (I did this talk 3 times in this event), Laurie pointed out it may be helpful to add some activities so that the presentation won't be too dry. I then added an activity at the end of the talk, called "Will you survive a tsunami?". The kids need to answer question to determine what is a tsunami wave and what they should do once a real one comes. The kids get really excited and involved since now tsunamis sound like real threats to them. I think this kind of activities are helpful for the kids to recall whatever they listened during the presentation. I highly recommend that for future events, if the topic is about natural hazards, an activity of this kind can be added.

I enjoyed the interaction with those kids!