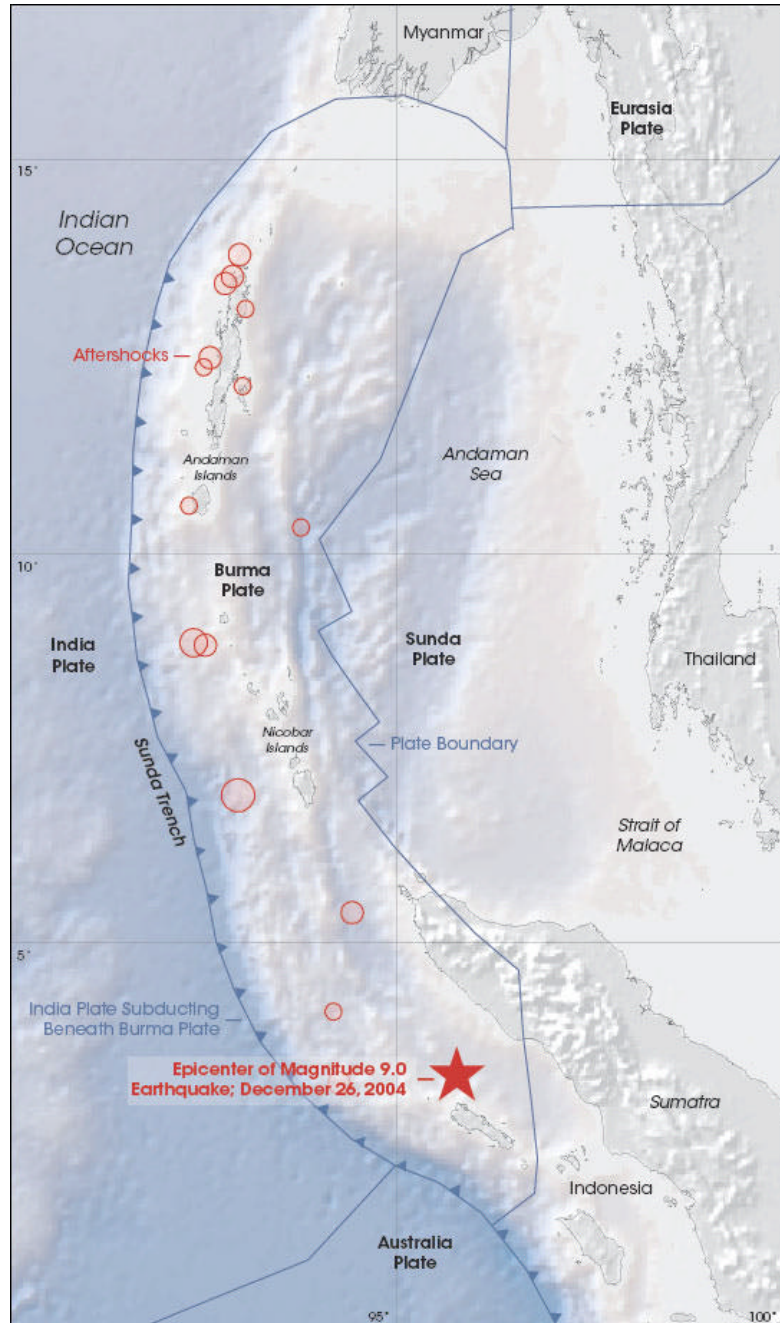
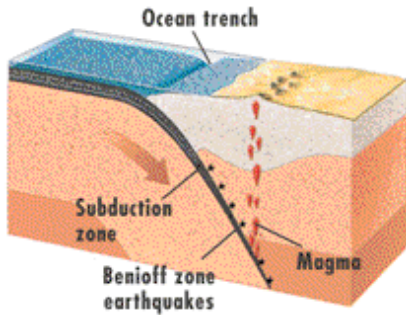


Courtesy of NASA

This shows the context of the December 26, 2004 earthquake that generated the disastrous Indian Ocean tsunami. The barbed line shows the "subduction" or sinking of the India plate underneath the Burma plate.



http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/natural_hazards_v2.php3?img_id=12647



December 29, 2004



January 10, 2003

The Indonesian province of Aceh was hit hardest by the earthquake and tsunamis of December 26, 2004. Aceh is located on the northern tip of the island of Sumatra. Early Western media attention was focused on Sri Lanka and Thailand, even though the earthquake epicenter was closer to Aceh, and the largest waves struck the northwestern coast of Sumatra. On December 29, estimates of the death toll in Indonesia were over 80,000—more than half the global total. The town of Lhoknga, on the west coast of Sumatra near the capital of Aceh, Banda Aceh, was completely destroyed by the tsunami, with the exception of the mosque in the city's center.

These high-resolution satellite images show Lhoknga before (lower) and after (top) the earthquake and Tsunami. Almost all the trees, vegetation, and buildings in the area were washed away. Behind the town, low-lying agricultural areas remained covered with water 4 days after the disaster, and sand on the nearby beaches was completely removed. The wave height might have exceeded 15 meters (50 feet) when it struck the shore.

from http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/natural_hazards_v2.php3?img_id=12648



December 29, 2004



January 3, 2003

The beaches of Khao Lak, Thailand were struck by a tsunami 2-3 hours after the magnitude 9.0 earthquake of December 26, 2004. Although 500 km away from the epicenter, the waves were 10 meters (33 feet) high. A resort area popular with Northern European tourists, luxury resorts dotted the coastline (January 3, 2003 image, lower center). Buildings and vegetation were scoured by the waves, leaving foundations and bare soil. Beach sand was also removed by the tsunamis.

If you go to this website, you can see a copyright free animation of the Tsunami moving across the Indian Ocean. This is a very big file (6 MB).
<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/video/tsunami-indonesia2004.mov>

What follows are stills of the animation, showing the progression of the tsunami

