

Natural Disasters Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Natural Disasters trivia explores the dramatic forces that shape landscapes, alter communities, and reveal the planet's raw power. Spanning well-known disasters and lesser-known facts, it offers a family-friendly mix of science, history, and memorable oddities across a wide range of difficulty.

HARD NATURAL DISASTERS TRIVIA

1. Which 1991 eruption cooled global temperatures by about 0.5°C for a time?

Answer: Mount Pinatubo

2. The 1816 "Year Without a Summer" followed the eruption of which volcano?

Answer: Mount Tambora

3. What magnitude range is widely given for the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman earthquake?

Answer: 9.1 to 9.3

4. What year was the most powerful recorded earthquake in U.S. history?

Answer: 1964

5. Which magnitude is widely listed for the 2011 Tohoku earthquake?

Answer: 9.0

6. One of the strongest earthquakes in eastern U.S. history in 1886 is known by what name?

Answer: Charleston earthquake

7. The central U.S. earthquake sequence of 1811 and 1812 is called what?

Answer: New Madrid

8. In what year did the North Sea flood kill more than 1,800 people in the Netherlands?

Answer: 1953

9. Which year's China floods are often cited among the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded?

Answer: 1931

10. Which earthquake killed hundreds of thousands in China in 1976?

Answer: Tangshan earthquake

11. The 1988 Spitak earthquake struck which country?

Answer: Armenia

12. What was the name of the quake that devastated Turkmenistan's capital in 1948?

Answer: Ashgabat earthquake

13. Which 1970 Peru disaster triggered a huge avalanche from Huascarán?

Answer: Ancash earthquake

14. What is the largest instrumentally recorded earthquake, the 1960 event in Chile, called?

Answer: Valdivia earthquake

FUNNY NATURAL DISASTERS TRIVIA

1. Before the storm gets a name, the word "hurricane" traces back to which Caribbean storm deity?

Answer: Huracan

2. What do you call a tornado that decided to take a swim and form over water?

Answer: Waterspout

3. Tornadoes can show up on every continent except which chilly holdout?

Answer: Antarctica

4. What is the shiny volcanic glass called when lava cools super fast?

Answer: Obsidian

5. Which bubbly volcanic rock can float on water?

Answer: Pumice

6. What's the name for a fast-moving volcanic mudflow with absolutely no chill?

Answer: Lahar

7. The point on Earth's surface directly above an earthquake focus is the what?

Answer: Epicenter

8. When the ground gets wiggly, what are the shaking waves traveling through Earth called?

Answer: Seismic waves

9. An undersea earthquake can trigger what giant sea wave?

Answer: Tsunami

10. If forecasters issue a tornado warning, what does that mean?

Answer: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar

11. On the Saffir-Simpson scale, what category begins at 157 mph winds or higher?

Answer: Category 5

12. Which volcano produced the deadliest eruption of the 20th century?

Answer: Nevado del Ruiz

13. What do seismologists call a smaller quake that follows the main shock?

Answer: Aftershock

FUN NATURAL DISASTERS TRIVIA

1. Which actress played storm chaser Jo Harding in "Twister"?

Answer: Helen Hunt

2. What is the name of the meteorologist at the center of "Twister"?

Answer: Jo Harding

3. Who directed the 2004 disaster film "The Day After Tomorrow"?

Answer: Roland Emmerich

4. Which star led the 2015 earthquake movie "San Andreas"?

Answer: Dwayne Johnson

5. The 1998 movie "Deep Impact" centers on what kind of space threat?

Answer: A comet

6. Who wrote the Everest disaster book "Into Thin Air"?

Answer: Jon Krakauer

7. In what year was "Into Thin Air" published?

Answer: 1997

8. Which city is one of those destroyed in the film "2012"?

Answer: Los Angeles

9. The White Island volcanic disaster in New Zealand happened in what year?

Answer: 2019

10. Which caldera often pops up in supervolcano documentaries?

Answer: Yellowstone Caldera

11. Who set a famous high-altitude balloon jump record in 1960?

Answer: Joseph Kittinger

12. Which ocean-floor mapper helped chart the Mid-Atlantic Ridge?

Answer: Marie Tharp

13. Who discovered the boundary now called the Moho in 1909?

Answer: Andrija Mohorovičić

NATURAL DISASTERS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who developed the Richter scale in 1935?

Answer: Charles F. Richter

2. Which scientist created the Fujita scale for tornado intensity?

Answer: Tetsuya Theodore Fujita

3. Herbert Saffir helped create which hurricane wind scale?

Answer: Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale

4. The Mercalli intensity scale is named after whom?

Answer: Giuseppe Mercalli

5. Who created the Beaufort wind force scale?

Answer: Francis Beaufort

6. Which volcanologist founded the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory in 1912?

Answer: Thomas Jaggar

7. On which island is the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory located?

Answer: The island of Hawaii

8. What year did the Tri-State Tornado cross Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana?

Answer: 1925

9. Besides Messina, which city was heavily damaged in the 1908 earthquake?

Answer: Reggio Calabria

10. The 2011 Christchurch earthquake struck which country?

Answer: New Zealand

11. Hurricane Mitch battered which region in 1998?

Answer: Central America

12. The 1991 eruption that killed Katia and Maurice Krafft happened at which volcano?

Answer: Mount Unzen

EASY NATURAL DISASTERS TRIVIA

1. In what year did Hurricane Katrina strike the U.S. Gulf Coast?

Answer: 2005

2. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake struck which U.S. state?

Answer: California

3. Which volcano buried Pompeii in AD 79?

Answer: Mount Vesuvius

4. A devastating tsunami in 2004 was triggered by an earthquake in what ocean?

Answer: Indian Ocean

5. Hurricane Andrew hit which part of Florida in 1992?

Answer: South Florida

6. What was the name of the 2018 wildfire that destroyed much of Paradise?

Answer: Camp Fire

7. Mount St. Helens erupted in what year?

Answer: 1980

8. Which storm devastated parts of the Philippines in 2013?

Answer: Typhoon Haiyan

9. The 2011 earthquake and tsunami severely affected which Japanese prefecture?

Answer: Fukushima Prefecture

10. What U.S. region is famous for frequent tornadoes?

Answer: Tornado Alley

11. Mount Tambora's huge eruption happened in which year?

Answer: 1815

12. Which hurricane struck the Caribbean and the U.S. in 1989?

Answer: Hurricane Hugo

13. Darwin, Australia, was devastated in 1974 by what cyclone?

Answer: Cyclone Tracy

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/natural-disasters>