

Volcano Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts  
Printable Trivia Pack

Volcano trivia explores the fiery science and history behind eruptions, from ancient accounts of Vesuvius to modern understanding of plate tectonics and magma. It's a lively way to learn how volcanoes form, why they erupt, and how they have influenced landscapes, climate, and human societies.

HARD VOLCANO TRIVIA

1. Which volcanologist produced a landmark study of the 1902 Mount Pelée eruption?

Answer: Alfred Lacroix

2. Name the 19th-century figure who published early influential work on volcanology: George Julius Poulett \_\_\_\_?

Answer: Scrope

3. Who served as geologist on the United States Exploring Expedition?

Answer: James Dwight Dana

4. Which volcanologist was killed in the 1985 Nevado del Ruiz eruption?

Answer: Harry Dalton

5. The deadly Armero lahar in Colombia was triggered by which volcano's 1985 eruption?

Answer: Nevado del Ruiz

6. What volcano produced the largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century in 1912, in Alaska?

Answer: Novarupta

7. The tsunamis associated with the 1883 Krakatoa eruption were generated in what strait?

Answer: Sunda Strait

8. Which eruption reached a VEI of 7 in 1815?

Answer: Tambora

9. Which volcano's 1991 eruption injected sulfur dioxide high into the stratosphere?

Answer: Pinatubo

10. Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried by which eruption of Vesuvius?

Answer: The AD 79 eruption

11. Chains of stratovolcanoes most often form along what tectonic setting?

Answer: Subduction zones

12. At mid-ocean ridges, what magma-generating process is most commonly involved?

Answer: Decompression melting

13. Which of these is a common component of volcanic gases?

Answer: Sulfur dioxide

14. Major eruptions can cool climate when sulfur dioxide helps form what in the atmosphere?

Answer: Sulfate aerosols

### FUNNY VOLCANO TRIVIA

1. If an eruption hits the top of the VEI chart like it's trying to break the scoreboard, what term is commonly used for a VEI 8 event?

Answer: supervolcano

2. What do volcanologists call that suspiciously quiet phase before an eruption, as if the volcano is drafting a strongly worded memo?

Answer: volcanic unrest

3. Which scale gives eruptions a number from 0 to 8, basically turning explosions into report cards?

Answer: Volcanic Explosivity Index

4. A broad volcanic crater formed when magma meets groundwater is called what?

Answer: maar

5. When thick lava basically gives up on traveling and just piles up near a vent, what forms?

Answer: lava dome

6. What's the name for the tunnel left behind after the outside of a lava flow cools, creating nature's hottest hallway?

Answer: lava tube

7. Underwater lava that hardens into shapes resembling a stack of cushions is called what?

Answer: pillow lava

8. If blobs of molten lava keep landing around a vent like a very bad fireworks finale, what kind of cone can build up?

Answer: spatter cone

9. What rock forms from compacted volcanic ash, proving even ash can commit to a long-term relationship?

Answer: tuff

10. What general term covers ash, lapilli, and larger volcanic fragments all in one messy family reunion?

Answer: tephra

11. Volcanic fragments measuring between 2 and 64 millimeters across are called what?

Answer: lapilli

12. Which dark volcanic rock is full of gas bubbles, like geology tried making a sponge?

Answer: scoria

13. What common volcanic rock forms from rapidly cooled lava?

Answer: basalt

#### FUN VOLCANO TRIVIA

1. Which Tom Hanks movie sent one very stressed guy on a trip toward a volcano in 1990?

Answer: Joe Versus the Volcano

2. In the 1997 disaster movie Dante's Peak, which actor faces the fiery mountain?

Answer: Pierce Brosnan

3. Who wrote the 1947 novel Under the Volcano?

Answer: Malcolm Lowry

4. Which writer penned the 1992 historical novel The Volcano Lover?

Answer: Susan Sontag

5. Who directed the 2016 documentary Into the Inferno?

Answer: Werner Herzog

6. Which French volcanologist became famous for dramatic eruption photography?

Answer: Maurice Krafft

7. Name the volcanologist who was also a filmmaker: Haroun Tazieff or Malcolm Lowry?

Answer: Haroun Tazieff

8. Which volcanologist appears on screen in Into the Inferno?

Answer: Clive Oppenheimer

9. The English word 'volcano' traces back to which Roman god?

Answer: Vulcan

10. Which Italian island helped inspire the word 'volcano'?

Answer: Vulcano

11. What eerie weather trick can happen inside an ash cloud during an eruption?

Answer: Volcanic lightning can flash inside it.

12. In Hawaiian tradition, who is the goddess associated with volcanoes and fire?

Answer: Pele

13. Where might you spot blue flames when sulfur gases burn at night?

Answer: Kawah Ijen in Indonesia

#### VOLCANO FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which volcano erupted catastrophically in 1980 in the United States?

Answer: Mount St. Helens

2. In 1991, which volcano had a major eruption in the Philippines?

Answer: Mount Pinatubo

3. What volcano began forming in a Mexican cornfield in 1943?

Answer: Parícutin

4. The huge 1883 eruption of Krakatoa took place in which country?

Answer: Indonesia

5. On which island would you find Mauna Loa?

Answer: The island of Hawai'i

6. Who founded the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory in 1912?

Answer: Thomas Jaggar

7. Volcanoes National Park is located in which African country?

Answer: Rwanda

8. What is the name for a large depression formed when a volcano collapses after an eruption?

Answer: A caldera

9. Which volcanic rock is light enough to float on water?

Answer: Pumice

10. Which natural material is volcanic glass?

Answer: Obsidian

11. True or false: Ash from explosive eruptions can travel far downwind.?

Answer: True

12. What do scientists call a fast-moving flow of water, mud, and volcanic debris?

Answer: A lahar

#### EASY VOLCANO TRIVIA

1. What is the name for an opening in Earth's crust where magma, ash, and gases can reach the surface?

Answer: A volcano

2. What do scientists call molten rock while it is still beneath Earth's surface?

Answer: Magma

3. Once molten rock erupts onto the ground, what is it called?

Answer: Lava

4. The Ring of Fire wraps around much of which ocean?

Answer: The Pacific Ocean

5. Which famous volcano stands on Japan's main island of Honshu?

Answer: Mount Fuji

6. Which volcano is located on the island of Sicily?

Answer: Mount Etna

7. Near Naples in southern Italy, which volcano rises nearby?

Answer: Mount Vesuvius

8. Which volcano is found within Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park?

Answer: Kilauea

9. What type of volcano is built mostly by fluid lava flows?

Answer: A shield volcano

10. What is the name for a small steep volcano made mainly of loose fragments?

Answer: A cinder cone

11. A volcanic arc commonly forms above what kind of zone?

Answer: A subduction zone

12. What are the openings called that emit steam and volcanic gases?

Answer: Fumaroles

13. What process formed the Hawaiian Islands?

Answer: Hotspot volcanism

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/volcano>