

Exploring Natural Disasters

Natural Disasters · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the scientific term for the shaking of the Earth's surface caused by a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust?

- A) Volcanic eruption
- B) Landslide
- C) Earthquake**
- D) Tsunami

2. Which natural disaster is caused by the sudden movement of large sections of the Earth's oceanic crust, often triggered by an underwater earthquake?

- A) Hurricane
- B) Tsunami**
- C) Tornado
- D) Flood

3. A large, destructive wave caused by an earthquake or other underwater disturbance is called a:

- A) Cyclone
- B) Storm surge
- C) Tsunami**
- D) Whirlpool

4. What is a long, narrow, and often violent storm characterized by a rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground?

- A) Blizzard
- B) Tornado**
- C) Dust storm
- D) Thunderstorm

5. Which of the following is a violent storm that forms over warm ocean waters, characterized by strong winds and heavy rainfall?

- A) Tornado
- B) Monsoon
- C) Hurricane (or Cyclone/Typhoon)**
- D) Hailstorm

6. What is the process where molten rock, ash, and gases erupt from the Earth's interior through a vent or volcano?

- A) Earthquake
- B) Landslide
- C) Volcanic eruption**
- D) Mudflow

7. A mass movement of rock, debris, or earth down a slope is known as a:

- A) Avalanche
- B) Volcanic eruption
- C) Landslide**
- D) Sinkhole

8. When a large amount of snow and ice slides rapidly down a mountainside, it is called an:

- A) Mudslide
- B) Landslide
- C) Avalanche**
- D) Rockfall

9. What is the term for a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water?

- A) Flood
- B) Drought**
- C) Heatwave
- D) Wildfire

10. What is an intense, widespread fire that travels rapidly through forests or other vegetation, often exacerbated by dry conditions?

- A) Volcanic ash cloud
- B) Wildfire**
- C) Dust devil
- D) Forest fire

11. A sudden and catastrophic collapse of the ground surface, forming a large hole, is called a:

- A) Landslide
- B) Sinkhole**
- C) Crater
- D) Quicksand

12. Which natural disaster involves the overflow of water onto land that is normally dry?

- A) Drought
- B) Tsunami
- C) Flood**
- D) Tidal wave

13. What is a sudden, intense burst of heat and light that occurs when an object, like a meteoroid, enters the Earth's atmosphere and burns up?

- A) Aurora
- B) Comet
- C) Meteor**
- D) Supernova

14. A large, extremely powerful windstorm that forms over the ocean and can cause widespread destruction when it reaches land is known as a:

- A) Tornado
- B) Blizzard
- C) Hurricane**
- D) Gale

15. When a volcano erupts, it can release a large amount of ash into the atmosphere, which can affect air travel and climate. This is called:

- A) Lava flow
- B) Pyroclastic flow
- C) Volcanic ash cloud**
- D) Geyser eruption

16. What is the term for a rapid, downhill movement of a large mass of snow, ice, and rock?

- A) Mudflow
- B) Landslide
- C) Avalanche**
- D) Debris flow

17. Which geological event is characterized by the upward movement of magma from beneath the Earth's surface?

- A) Earthquake
- B) Volcanic eruption**
- C) Geyser
- D) Fissure

18. A powerful storm characterized by high winds and blowing snow, often resulting in very low visibility and dangerously cold temperatures, is a:

- A) Tornado
- B) Hurricane
- C) Blizzard**
- D) Dust storm

19. What is the phenomenon where the ground temporarily loses its strength and stiffness, becoming more like a liquid, often triggered by earthquakes?

- A) Erosion
- B) Subsidence
- C) Liquefaction**
- D) Compaction

20. A destructive flow of hot gas, ash, and rock fragments that rushes down the side of a volcano during an eruption is called a:

- A) Lava flow
- B) Volcanic mudflow
- C) Pyroclastic flow**
- D) Steam vent