

Historical Natural Disasters

Natural Disasters · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which volcanic eruption in 1815 was responsible for the 'Year Without a Summer' in 1816 due to global climate cooling?

A) Mount Tambora

B) Krakatoa

C) Mount Pelée

D) Novarupta

2. The 1931 China floods, often considered the deadliest natural disaster in recorded history, primarily affected which two major river systems?

A) Yellow and Pearl

B) Yangtze and Huai

C) Mekong and Salween

D) Yangtze and Yellow

3. During the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, what was the primary cause of the majority of the property destruction in the city?

A) Tsunami waves

B) Subsequent fires

C) Ground liquefaction

D) Structural collapse of skyscrapers

4. The 1970 Bhola cyclone, which devastated East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), is historically notable for its high death toll, estimated at approximately how many people?

A) 50,000

B) 200,000

C) 500,000

D) 1,000,000

5. What geological event occurred in 1960 that remains the most powerful earthquake ever recorded by seismographs, with a magnitude of 9.5?

A) The Great Chilean Earthquake

B) The Alaska Good Friday Earthquake

C) The Indian Ocean Tsunami

D) The Kamchatka Earthquake

6. The 1755 Lisbon earthquake is historically significant for being the first major disaster to trigger the development of which scientific field?

- A) Volcanology
- B) Seismology**
- C) Meteorology
- D) Hydrology

7. Which Mediterranean volcanic eruption in the 17th century BCE is believed to have contributed to the decline of the Minoan civilization on Crete?

- A) Vesuvius
- B) Stromboli
- C) Thera**
- D) Etna

8. The 1923 Great Kanto earthquake caused catastrophic damage to which two major Japanese cities?

- A) Osaka and Kyoto
- B) Tokyo and Yokohama**
- C) Nagoya and Kobe
- D) Sapporo and Sendai

9. In 1902, the eruption of Mount Pelée destroyed the city of Saint-Pierre in Martinique; what was the specific volcanic phenomenon that caused nearly all fatalities?

- A) Lava flow
- B) Pyroclastic surge**
- C) Volcanic lightning
- D) Tsunami

10. The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa was unique in recorded history for the intensity of what phenomenon, which was heard 3,000 miles away?

- A) Seismic tremor
- B) Atmospheric pressure wave**
- C) Volcanic debris fallout
- D) Electromagnetic pulse