

Natural Disasters and Environmental Science

Natural Disasters · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which type of natural disaster is most commonly associated with the immediate release of ash that can alter global temperatures by blocking sunlight?

- A) Earthquake
- B) Volcanic eruption
- C) Hurricane
- D) Wildfire

2. What is the primary way that wildfires can benefit certain forest ecosystems, such as those dominated by lodgepole pines?

- A) By cooling the soil temperature
- B) By releasing seeds from serotinous cones
- C) By increasing forest density
- D) By preventing new growth

3. Which marine animal is known to sense changes in barometric pressure, often leaving shallow waters before a hurricane hits?

- A) Great White Shark
- B) Green Sea Turtle
- C) Blue Whale
- D) Clownfish

4. What is the term for the process where intense shaking during an earthquake causes water-saturated soil to behave like a liquid?

- A) Liquefaction
- B) Subduction
- C) Erosion
- D) Desertification

5. Which natural disaster often results in the mass migration of birds and insects due to the destruction of habitat and food sources?

- A) Tsunami
- B) Drought
- C) Wildfire
- D) Hailstorm

6. How do mangrove forests help mitigate the impact of a tsunami on coastal environments?

- A) They absorb the heat from the waves
- B) They reduce the velocity of incoming water
- C) They increase the height of the waves
- D) They release chemicals to solidify the soil

7. Which gas is typically released in the largest quantities during a massive volcanic eruption?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Water vapor
- D) Argon

8. During a drought, which physiological adaptation do many desert plants employ to survive?

- A) Rapid shedding of all roots
- B) Increasing leaf surface area
- C) Stomata closure during the day
- D) Drinking water from deep underground springs

9. What is the main environmental consequence of an oil spill caused by a natural disaster, such as a hurricane hitting an oil rig?

- A) Increased oxygen levels in the water
- B) Disruption of the marine food chain
- C) Rapid cooling of ocean temperatures
- D) Improved coral reef growth

10. Which of these natural events can lead to the formation of a 'dead zone' in a coastal area due to nutrient runoff?

- A) Flash flooding
- B) Ice age
- C) Light fog
- D) Low tide

11. What is the primary driver of 'fire whirls' that can occur during large-scale wildfires?

- A) Strong, rotating wind patterns
- B) High concentrations of carbon dioxide
- C) Sudden cooling of the air
- D) Underwater volcanic activity

12. How do earthworms typically respond to heavy, prolonged rainfall that threatens to flood their burrows?

- A) They hibernate
- B) They surface to avoid drowning
- C) They release toxins into the soil
- D) They migrate to higher ground

13. Which geological feature is created by the collapse of a volcano after a massive eruption?

- A) Caldera
- B) Moraine
- C) Delta
- D) Canyon

14. Which animal species is frequently used as a bio-indicator for environmental stress following a wildfire due to their sensitivity to air quality?

- A) Bears
- B) Lizards
- C) Lichens
- D) Eagles

15. What happens to the salinity of coastal estuaries immediately following a major storm surge?

- A) It stays the same
- B) It increases significantly
- C) It decreases rapidly
- D) It becomes alkaline

16. What is the term for a fast-moving current of hot gas and volcanic matter that flows away from a volcano during an eruption?

- A) Lava flow
- B) Pyroclastic flow
- C) Magma chamber
- D) Ash cloud

17. Which of the following is a direct environmental benefit of a river flooding its banks?

- A) Prevention of plant growth
- B) Deposition of nutrient-rich sediment
- C) Removal of all invasive species
- D) Decrease in water evaporation

18. What do many coral reefs suffer from after a period of prolonged ocean warming associated with climate extremes?

- A) Coral bleaching
- B) Rapid calcification
- C) Increased growth rates
- D) Infection by fungi

19. Which phenomenon involves the sliding of land down a slope, often triggered by heavy rain or earthquakes?

- A) Avalanche
- B) Landslide
- C) Tornado
- D) Blizzard

20. What is a major cause of the death of aquatic life in a lake after a volcanic eruption nearby?

- A) Increased light levels
- B) Sudden acidity changes in the water
- C) Decrease in water depth
- D) Increased fish reproduction