

Historical Natural Disasters

Natural Disasters · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which volcanic eruption in 1815 resulted in the 'Year Without a Summer' due to global cooling?

- A) Mount Tambora
- B) Krakatoa
- C) Mount Pinatubo
- D) Novarupta

2. The 1931 China floods, often cited as one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, primarily affected which river basins?

- A) Yellow and Pearl
- B) Yangtze and Huai
- C) Mekong and Salween
- D) Amur and Liao

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

- A) Ground displacement
- B) Tsunami waves
- C) Fire
- D) Liquefaction

4. The 1970 Bhola cyclone, which struck East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), is estimated to have caused how many fatalities?

- A) 10,000-50,000
- B) 100,000-200,000
- C) 300,000-500,000
- D) Over 1 million

5. What geological phenomenon caused the 1960 Valdivia earthquake, the most powerful earthquake ever recorded?

- A) Subduction of the Nazca Plate
- B) Transform fault rupture
- C) Hotspot activity
- D) Volcanic collapse

6. The Great Fire of London in 1666 was exacerbated by what specific environmental factor?

- A) Unusually high temperatures
- B) A persistent drought
- C) Strong easterly winds
- D) High seismic activity

7. Which tsunami, following a 1755 earthquake, is considered a major turning point in the development of modern seismology?

- A) Lisbon
- B) Tokyo
- C) Valparaiso
- D) Krakatoa

8. What was the approximate magnitude of the 1964 Alaska earthquake, the second largest earthquake ever recorded?

- A) 8.2
- B) 8.8
- C) 9.2
- D) 9.5

9. The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa generated pressure waves that circled the Earth how many times?

- A) 1
- B) 3
- C) 7
- D) 12

10. Which US state experienced the 'Tri-State Tornado' in 1925, the deadliest tornado in American history?

- A) Kansas
- B) Missouri
- C) Texas
- D) Oklahoma

11. In 1991, which volcano's eruption injected enough sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere to lower global temperatures by about 0.5 degrees Celsius?

- A) Mount St. Helens
- B) Mount Pinatubo
- C) Mount Agung
- D) Mount Pelée

12. The 1976 Tangshan earthquake occurred in a region previously thought to have what level of seismic risk?

- A) Extremely high
- B) Moderate
- C) Very low
- D) Non-existent

13. The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée destroyed the city of Saint-Pierre, which was known as the 'Paris of the Caribbean,' primarily due to what feature?

- A) Lava flow
- B) Nuée ardente
- C) Tephra fallout
- D) Tsunami

14. Which major event was caused by the collapse of the North wall of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980?

- A) A debris avalanche
- B) A large pyroclastic flow
- C) A lateral blast
- D) All of the above

15. The 1556 Shaanxi earthquake, the deadliest in history, primarily killed victims due to the collapse of what type of structures?

- A) Wood-frame houses
- B) Yaodong dwellings
- C) Stone masonry
- D) High-rise brick towers

16. The 1812 New Madrid earthquakes are notable for reportedly doing what to the Mississippi River?

- A) Causing it to flood over 100 miles
- B) Temporarily reversing its flow
- C) Completely drying it up
- D) Creating a permanent delta

17. Which city was struck by the deadliest hurricane in US history in 1900?

- A) New Orleans
- B) Galveston
- C) Miami
- D) Charleston

18. The 1923 Great Kanto earthquake triggered a firestorm that devastated which major city?

- A) Osaka
- B) Kyoto
- C) Tokyo
- D) Nagoya

19. Which phenomenon caused the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami to be so lethal in distant countries like Somalia?

- A) Oceanic basin resonance
- B) Low-lying coastal geography
- C) Tidal amplification
- D) The scale of the seafloor displacement

20. The 'Year of the Two Summers' in 536 AD was caused by what event, leading to widespread famine?

- A) Solar flare activity
- B) A massive volcanic dust veil
- C) A comet impact
- D) A prolonged El Niño cycle

21. What is the name of the fault line responsible for the 1906 San Francisco earthquake?

- A) Cascadia Subduction Zone
- B) San Andreas Fault
- C) Hayward Fault
- D) Garlock Fault

22. The 1889 Johnstown Flood was caused by the failure of which infrastructure?

- A) The South Fork Dam
- B) The Conemaugh River Levees
- C) The Pennsylvania Canal locks
- D) The Allegheny Reservoir

23. Which island's 1902 eruption destroyed the local population of St. Vincent?

- A) Soufrière Saint Vincent
- B) La Soufrière de Guadeloupe
- C) Montserrat
- D) Martinique

24. The 1930s 'Dust Bowl' in the United States was largely caused by a combination of severe drought and what else?

- A) Poor agricultural practices
- B) Uncontrolled wildfires
- C) The Great Depression
- D) Government land seizure

25. The 1859 Carrington Event, a massive solar storm, primarily impacted what type of infrastructure?

- A) Electrical grids
- B) Telegraph systems
- C) Early radio communication
- D) Submarine cables