

Supervolcano: Reflection Questions

Choose Four (4) of the following questions. Answer in complete sentences. Make sure you tell me which 4 you choose. You must write at least one **good paragraph** for each question. Each paragraph should be approximately **100** words.

1. In the movie, the holographic computer program “Virgil” shows over 5 vents erupting. How did Rick Lieberman, the USGS scientist in charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory (YVO), and the other scientists feel at this point? How did they react to the news that this magma chamber could have a catastrophic eruption?
2. Has supervolcanic eruptions happened in the past? If so, when? What happened? What was the effect on Earth and its’ life forms?
3. How do you think the media would react? What would they make known, and when? Is there a precedent for any action the media might take?
4. What are your ideas for dealing with a future mega-eruption in North America? Thoroughly explain/describe at least 3 ideas/plans. Be realistic.
5. Did the CNN news reporter and the author of “Big Bangs”, Rick Lieberman's brother-in-law, act appropriately by encouraging people to panic? What did they say that was frightening to people? What would you have done if you were trying to attract viewers and sell your book?
6. Nancy and Matt are killed as they try to outrun a pyroclastic flow. Has anyone ever outrun a pyroclastic flow? If yes, when, and what was the situation? Why could they not realistically drive fast enough to escape?
7. How do you think the scientists studying Yellowstone feel when it erupts? Are they responsible for not warning the public sooner? What is their moral responsibility as scientists?
8. The authorities try to save the trapped Americans in the Western half of the country. What do you think these people think about being “saved” and leaving their homes? What is the government’s responsibility in a natural disaster like this? Has something like this happened before? When, Where? What happened?
9. You were trapped by the volcanic ash. Where would you go? Who would you take with you? What would you take with you? Why?
10. The government encouraged the People to Walk For Life. What would you do if you got this message? Would you stay where you were, or would you try and make it to safety? Why?

Reflection Response number ____ (write the Reflection number in the blank that you are responding to)

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