

# Volcanologist Interview Questions And Answers Guide.



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# Volcanologist Job Interview Preparation Guide.

### Question # 1

Tell me who is a volcanologist?

#### Answer:-

Volcanologists are professionals who study volcanoes, whether dormant, active or extinct. They study these volcanoes to determine when volcanoes erupt, how it happens and why eruption occurs

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### Question # 2

Explain me what is a volcano?

#### Answer:-

The word "volcano" comes from the Roman God of Fire, Vulcanus. Also the small volcanic island of Vulcano in the Eolian Islands off Sicily, was called after that god. Apparently, this island was highly active in Ancient times and people believed its crater was the chimney of the Vulcanus' forge, where the hot lava and ash coming out from the crater were the visible evidence of his activity to forge weapons for the other gods.

On Hawai'i, the people attributed volcanic activity to the beautiful, but capricious and at times destructive goddess Pele, who loved fire and hated water.

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### Question # 3

Do you know why are volcanoes called active even when there is no eruption?

#### Answer:-

An active volcano is a volcano that has had at least one eruption during the past 10,000 years. An active volcano might be erupting or dormant.

An erupting volcano is an active volcano that is having an eruption...

A dormant volcano is an active volcano that is not erupting, but supposed to erupt again.

An extinct volcano has not had an eruption for at least 10,000 years and is not expected to erupt again in a comparable time scale of the future.

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### Question # 4

Tell me how dangerous are volcanoes?

#### Answer:-

Volcanoes are usually less dangerous than other natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes.

But there is no good answer if you don't limit it into a specific context: which volcano? dangerous to what - people, property, etc.? during which type of activity? at which location?

Volcanoes have a serious of hazards (e.g. lava flows, ash fall, pyroclastic flows, climate changes on a global scale) that relate into different dangers or risks. The risks when visiting an active volcano depend on which risk zones of the volcano are visited and for how long.

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### Question # 5

Where you studied volcanoes in the field?

#### Answer:-

In the United States I have worked mostly on the Cascades volcanoes, such as Rainier, St. Helens, Medicine Lake caldera, Newberry Caldera, and South Sister. Also, I have worked at Long Valley caldera in California and a little bit on Kilauea in Hawaii. In other parts of the world, I have worked on Mount Erebus in Antarctica and Misti volcano in Peru.

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### Question # 6

Tell me what was the most dangerous volcano you've ever studied?

#### Answer:-

Probably the most dangerous for me personally would have to have been Erebus or St. Helens. I have worked on both volcanoes when there was a high possibility for



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eruptions occurring. The most dangerous volcano for the surrounding population is easily Misti volcano.

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### **Question # 7**

Tell me where did you get your first job?

**Answer:-**

My first volcanology job was with the US Geological Survey.

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### **Question # 8**

Explain me what was it about studying volcanoes that drew you to the field? Was there something specific that attracted you to it?

**Answer:-**

Seeing the area that had been devastated by Mount St. Helens and watching the lava dome grow in the crater over the next couple years was an amazing experience. I think any earth scientist who had the opportunity to be there was instantly converted to volcanology.

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### **Question # 9**

Tell me what would you rate as the best experience you've had while working on a volcano?

**Answer:-**

The best part is working in some really beautiful areas that are constantly changing. Usually geologists are studying landscapes that took thousands or millions of years to form, and out here in Hawaii we can see drastic changes from day to day. So volcanoes are very powerful places to work. An active volcano almost feels like a living entity.

[Read More Answers.](#)

### **Question # 10**

Tell me what do you like best about your chosen profession?  
What's the most difficult thing about being a volcanologist?

**Answer:-**

I like the unpredictability of events and the challenge of setting up experiments to study those events. You have to be flexible to take advantage of whatever is going on at the moment. If there is an a'a flow, then you are studying a'a flows - if there is a large skylight into an active lava tube, then you are studying lava tubes, etc. Working at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory has been a real highlight, especially the people I have gotten to know through working in the field on common problems.

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### **Question # 11**

Tell me what was the strangest experience you ever had on a volcano?

**Answer:-**

The weird one that I remember was working in Hawaii. We were working on an older lava flow that had lava tubes. We went in to explore one lava tube, a beautiful lava tube that was nice and tall, so I didn't get claustrophobic.

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### **Question # 12**

Tell me what do you like best about being a volcanologist?

**Answer:-**

I really love traveling and working on volcanoes, I have to admit.

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### **Question # 13**

Which are the world's most dangerous volcanoes?

**Answer:-**

Classification of the world's most dangerous volcanoes is subject to debate. Below are listed some of the most dangerous volcanoes due to their explosive history and proximity to large population centres.

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### **Question # 14**

Tell me which is the world's most beautiful volcano?

**Answer:-**

The classic symmetrical volcano cone shape is one of the most impressive sights in nature. Of the world's 1500 active volcanoes a few stand out as being exceptionally beautiful.

Mt Fuji is Japan is renowned for its beauty. There are several other volcanoes which have an even more beautiful shape.

Kronotsky volcano in Kamchatka is even more beautiful than Fuji, and Mayon volcano in Philippines is one of the most spectacular in its shape.

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### Question # 15

Tell me can volcanic eruptions affect climate?

#### Answer:-

Large volcanic eruptions can cause global climate change and even be responsible for mass extinctions.

Major eruptions in Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia have a disproportional effect on global climate, due to the low troposphere elevation at these latitudes, and the ease of dispersal of ash, aerosol, and gas.

Most mass extinctions during the last 500 million years coincide with eruptions of large igneous provinces. The Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction was synchronous with the Deccan flood volcanism.

There is a positive feedback between glacial variability and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations: deglaciation increases volcanic eruptions, raises atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, and causes more deglaciation. Conversely, waning volcanic activity during an interglacial could lead to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> and the onset of an ice age.

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### Question # 16

Tell me how would you find out if a volcano was going to explode?

#### Answer:-

The answer to this complex topic is the heart of the science of volcanology and its ultimate challenge.

While there is no easy and short answer, this is the essence: you combine knowledge of the volcano's specific past behaviour with all available observation of its present state, and this allows you to make a long-term and a short term prediction:

1) You study the volcano's eruptive behaviour in the past and ideally, you also try to find out whether there were any signs of change before its eruptions. Such changes might be: unusual seismic activity (i.e. earthquakes at the volcano), visible or otherwise detectable deformation of the ground (i.e. opening of cracks, swelling of the whole mountain etc.), changes in composition and temperature of fumarolic gases and so on.

2) Then you monitor the volcano's behaviour in the present, looking for such changes.

Based on the knowledge of the volcano's past, you can make a long-term prediction (example: sooner or later, Mount Rainier is going to erupt again, although nobody knows exactly when, but chances are almost certain high that this might happen within the next few centuries). The short-term prediction is possible when there are signs of change, and the more is known about the volcano and the more data are available about its present state, the more precise such predictions.

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### Question # 17

Tell me what is some of the information you have to collect from a volcano (in the field)?

#### Answer:-

In the work that I have done I collect many types of information. I take samples of the deposits to understand the past eruptions of the volcano and also I have been involved in many projects to monitor volcanoes. Typically monitoring includes installing instruments for detecting earthquakes and also very subtle uplift or sagging of the ground surface.

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### Question # 18

How long have you been studying volcanoes?

#### Answer:-

Around 3 years.

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### Question # 19

Tell me how did you get started in volcanology? What interested you in volcanology?

#### Answer:-

Well, I was working for the U.S.G.S. in Tacoma, Washington at an office devoted to studying glaciers when Mt. St. Helens erupted in May 1980. Up until then, I had absolutely no idea that I ever wanted to be a volcanologist, but the eruption of Mt. St. Helens changed the course of a lot of people's lives, and I was one of them. I went down to St. Helens the weekend after the big eruption and volunteered to help. There was chaos after the eruption, and they needed people to answer phones in this makeshift office. Eventually, I moved down there and worked for the newly created Cascades Volcano Observatory part-time while I went to graduate school. Then I was transferred to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and I've been here ever since.

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### Question # 20

Tell me what's the funniest thing that happened to you while working on a volcano? I know we've had a lot of funny times but there must be one that stands out!?

#### Answer:-

A lot of things seem funnier in retrospect than they did when they were happening. I remember being caught in a cloud of steam and sulfur dioxide on the rim of Pu`u `O`o crater with another geologist. We couldn't see more than a few feet in front of us, and the fume was terrible, even wearing gas masks. We were stumbling around and arguing about which way we should go which is hard to do wearing a gas mask because it's like trying to talk with someone's hand across your mouth. Then I heard this muffled shriek from my partner, who had almost stepped off the rim into the crater. We finally found our way out of the whiteout, but if anyone could have seen us in our identical flight suits and gas masks feeling our way through a cloud of gas you would have thought it was a scene from The Three Stooges--except that there were only two of us, because you were somewhere else that day.

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### Question # 21

Tell me how did you get started in volcanology? What was it about studying volcanoes that drew you to the field?

#### Answer:-

I always knew I wanted to be a scientist in Hawai`i, but I didn't know what kind until college. My high school only offered physics, biology, and chemistry and I started college thinking I wanted to be an oceanographer. The college required a year each of physics, biology, chemistry, AND geology before taking any



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oceanography courses. I took geology first and liked it so well that I switched majors immediately. My post bachelor's degrees were in geophysics and my initial contact with volcanology was through the USGS applying various surface geophysical methods to study subsurface lava. That interest kind of morphed into general volcanology so that now I attempt integrated studies using geophysics (as well as geology) to study volcanological phenomena.

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### **Question # 22**

Tell me what was the worst thing that you've experienced on the job. Did it make you wonder if you should change professions?

#### **Answer:-**

The worst thing was completely bureaucratic - the agonizing uncertainty of the RIF in 1995 within the USGS Geologic Division (eds. note: in 1995, about 500 employees from the Geologic Division of the USGS, or 20% of it's workforce, lost their jobs).

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### **Question # 23**

Explain me what was the worst thing you've experienced on the job and did it make you wonder if you should change professions?

#### **Answer:-**

The worst thing I've experienced on the job was working with the media at Mount St. Helens. I did not enjoy that. A particularly bad experience involved the one explosive eruption that I experienced, in March of 1982. Because of the explosion, media folks from the major networks flew up from San Francisco. They were really pushy and really obnoxious. And all the scientists were stressed, and I was working in a different building than they were. So I was having trouble getting information from the scientists, and I was being pushed by the media. I didn't like it. So I decided to go back to school and get my Ph.D. so I could do something on the volcano other than work with the media!

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### **Question # 24**

Tell me which were largest eruptions in past 250 years?

#### **Answer:-**

The size of volcanic eruptions is determined by the amount of lava emitted. The largest eruption over the past 2 centuries was Tambora in Indonesia in 1815.

- \* Laki fissure, Iceland 1783
- \* Tambora, Indonesia 1815
- \* Cosiguina, Nicaragua 1835
- \* Askja, Iceland 1875
- \* Krakatau, Indonesia 1883
- \* Tarawera, New Zealand 1886
- \* Santa Maria, Guatemala 1902
- \* Ksudach, Kamchatka 1907
- \* Katmai, Alaska, USA 1912
- \* Agung, Indonesia 1963
- \* St. Helens, USA 1980
- \* El Chich n, Mexico 1982
- \* Pinatubo, Philippines 1991
- \* Chaiten, Chile 2008

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### **Question # 25**

Tell me here's another one, kind-of along the same vein, what was the strangest experience you ever had? Has anything weird ever happened to you?

#### **Answer:-**

Well, it wasn't weird in the sense of being supernatural, but it was very strange at the time because I'd never seen anything like it. A high-fountaining episode at Pu`u `O'o had ended several hours before, and we were about to fly back to the observatory. Then we saw these cracks starting to open in the ground on the uprift side of the cone. We went to look, and the cracks were continuing to open ahead of us, so we followed along, with the ground splitting open at about the same pace that we were walking. This went on for several hundred meters.

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### **Question # 26**

Tell me what would you rate as the best experience you've had while working on a volcano?

#### **Answer:-**

I would say that there is no one best. I've had many both fun and exciting experiences on volcanoes. One of the best would be Mount Erebus, that first time that I looked down and saw molten lava. Another one would be the first time I saw Mt. St. Helens. I had seen pictures on the news and I had heard about it and I had been trying really hard to get out to Washington to see what was going on. But to actually get out to the mountain and see the extent of the destruction and to see what the volcano looked like was very exciting.

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### **Question # 27**

Tell me what made you decide to become a volcanologist?

#### **Answer:-**

Initially, when I went to college I fell in love with geology and when I went home for the summers I tried to find work doing geology. The local office of the US Geological Survey was a volcano observatory and so I started working there and in turn I found that volcanology was really interesting.

[Read More Answers.](#)

### **Question # 28**



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Tell me what you like best about your chosen profession. Anything else you want to list about what you like best about being a volcanologist?

**Answer:-**

I guess it's rare to have a job that people are so interested in and curious about. Everyone wants to know more about volcanoes, which makes all the public speaking I do a lot easier, because the audience is so receptive.

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**Question # 29**

What made Erebus and St. Helens so dangerous?

**Answer:-**

Well, in the case of St. Helens and Erebus, both were in an active state and there was the potential for small eruptions to occur. In the case of Misti there are around 1 million people living within about 10 miles of a volcano that could reawaken at some point in the future causing very severe problems for these people.

[Read More Answers.](#)

**Question # 30**

Tell me what was the strangest experience you ever had on a volcano? Has anything weird ever happen to you?

**Answer:-**

I ran into a strange woman one day while working out in the middle of nowhere behind a locked gate. She looked really weird with a young body but old wrinkled face and white hair. I never saw her again. (Eds. note: Over the centuries, people have reported seeing a mysterious woman on the volcanoes of Hawai'i who is either very old and wrinkled or very young and beautiful. Many think that she is the spirit of the Hawaiian Goddess Pele.

[Read More Answers.](#)

**Question # 31**

Tell me are you inclined to be claustrophobic?

**Answer:-**

I'm inclined to be a little claustrophobic. I love being high on things, I don't like being closed in. I can manage lava tubes because I'm interested. Well, we walked into this lava tube. The first thing that we saw, down in the tube was a big shape. We slowed down and then we heard a noise. We realized the shape was an owl. We stood and watched the owl and suddenly it took off, not back out toward us but instead the owl just soared down the lava tube somewhere. That was a little mysterious. We then went down a little more, but soon turned around as we hadn't really come prepared to explore a lava tube and we just had small flashlights. When we were coming back out, right at the entrance to the lava tube, on a large rock that we had to have walked over when we went in, was a beautiful enormous peacock feather. We knew that it couldn't have been there when we went in. So that just seemed a little mysterious, and owl and a peacock feather...

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**Question # 32**

Tell me how much time do you spend in the field doing your favorite part of the job?

**Answer:-**

I'm lucky if I spend a month in the field a year.

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**Question # 33**

Do you know how many volcanoes erupt every year?

**Answer:-**

The volcanic explosivity index is a scale from 1 to 8 to measure the magnitude (erupted volume) and intensity (eruption column height) of an eruption.

The VEI is not used to describe eruptions of lava which are non explosive.

Ancient eruptions are determined by the volume of deposits.

Modern eruptions are determined by the observed column height.

[Read More Answers.](#)

**Question # 34**

Tell me where are the most active volcanoes?

**Answer:-**

Kilauea volcano on Hawaii is the world's most active volcano, followed by Etna in Italy and Piton de la Fournaise on La Réunion island.

After that, it is difficult to decide the exact order on the list, but the following are very close: Stromboli, Merapi, Ertá Ale, Ol Doinyo Lengai, Unzen, Yasur, Ambrym, Arenal, Pacaya, Klyuchevsky, Sheveluch, and Erebus.

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**Question # 35**

Tell me what was the funniest thing that happened to you while working on a volcano?

**Answer:-**

Nothing is funnier than seeing visitors in high-heels trying to walk over uneven pahoehoe. That aside, probably the next funniest thing happened during a video interview of a colleague who had not been in Hawai'i very long and who shall remain nameless. The video shoot took several days and I accompanied the interviewee on the day where he was to be interviewed about general Hawai'i geology stuff. The interviewer asked the question, I put together a reasonable response, and my colleague would then answer the interviewer in his own words on camera. I had to look away every time he was on camera for fear that I would laugh and disrupt the interview.

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### **Question # 36**

Tell me what did you study for your Ph.D?

#### **Answer:-**

I was interested in what was happening underneath Mount St. Helens, what was driving the eruption. Magma that is ejected during an eruption comes from deep underground - one topic of interest in the early 80's was what was happening below the surface in what we call "magma chambers". Magma is a liquid with dissolved gases, and, commonly, containing crystals. One important feature of magma chambers that no one knew much about was how those crystals form. What I did for my dissertation was to try to understand the rates of crystal formation. Since that time, I have been interested in how the presence of crystals (and bubbles) affects the behavior of magma when it comes out of the ground.

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### **Question # 37**

Tell me what was the first volcano you've ever studied?

#### **Answer:-**

The first volcano that I ever worked on a project at was Long Valley caldera.

[Read More Answers.](#)

### **Question # 38**

Tell me have you studied volcanoes in the field?

#### **Answer:-**

Yes, starting from the first time I ever worked on a volcano I have been doing field work on volcanoes for 3 years now.

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### **Question # 39**

Tell me in your opinion, how have volcanoes affected the earth the most?

#### **Answer:-**

Well, volcanoes are responsible for forming the atmosphere which is pretty important.

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### **Question # 40**

Do you know where is St. Helens and Erebus located?

#### **Answer:-**

Erebus is located on Ross Island, Antarctica. St. Helens is located in Washington State.

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### **Question # 41**

Where is Long Valley caldera located?

#### **Answer:-**

Long Valley Caldera is in central eastern California, essentially at the town of Mammoth Lakes.

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### **Question # 42**

Tell me has worldwide volcanic activity been increasing recently?

#### **Answer:-**

We sometimes are being asked if the number of currently active volcanoes and ongoing eruptions, or global volcanic activity, has been increasing recently. Should we be worried "globally"?

The current level of volcanic activity is completely normal, on the contrary (if not on the low end of averages over decades).

The main difference is that there is faster and more information available, as well as increased media coverage and public interest on the subject of global volcanic activity. This might give the impression that volcanic activity is on the increase (which it is not).

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### **Question # 43**

Tell me what was the most exciting volcano you've ever studied?

#### **Answer:-**

They are all exciting in their unique ways. I think that two specifically stand out for me, St. Helens and Erebus.

[Read More Answers.](#)

### **Question # 44**

Tell me did you worry about flying into the fountain or was that not possible?

#### **Answer:-**

Well, the pilot had to look out for the falling tephra, but mainly he was just worried about flying into 1123 (the hill where volcanologists camped when monitoring Pu`u`O`o) because it was the biggest hill around, except for Pu`u`O`o.

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### **Question # 45**

Tell me what would you say is the most difficult thing about being a volcanologist?

#### **Answer:-**

The most difficult thing for me is that I'm a volcanologist at a university. So I don't get to go work on volcanoes unless I raise the money to do so, unless I get a grant from the National Science Foundation. I also have responsibility for teaching and training students, and for doing administration both within the university and within the profession. So there's a big juggling act involved, and while I enjoy most parts of the job, it is often overwhelming to try to do them all at once.

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### **Question # 46**

What made St. Helens and Erebus so exciting/ interesting?

#### **Answer:-**

The location of Erebus in Antarctica is amazing, the snow, ice, and rock are beautiful and I think the fact that very few people have ever been there makes it a really special place to work. Also, it is a weird type of volcano and has a lake of molten lava at the summit. St. Helens is a little different. I grew up close to St. Helens and have been hiking and skiing there since I was very young. So I have had a lifelong relationship with this volcano and I am very attached to it. This makes it a very special place for me.

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### **Question # 47**

Tell me what's the most difficult thing about being a volcanologist?

#### **Answer:-**

Well, the job can be physically demanding at times because it's so hot on an active volcano, especially here in Hawaii. And students who are interested in volcanology should be aware that they still have to spend a lot of time indoors staring at a computer. One of the biggest problems for volcanologists is that there aren't enough active volcanoes to go around, so it's hard to find a job.

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### **Question # 48**

How long do eruptions last?

#### **Answer:-**

It is much more difficult to predict the end of an eruption than to predict its beginning. The table below gives the length of time that volcanoes erupt. Explosive eruptions end when sufficient decompression is attained to cause magma chamber collapse and restoration of the initial pressure conditions.

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### **Question # 49**

Tell me have you ever been injured while studying a volcano?

#### **Answer:-**

I have never had any injuries directly related to the volcano. However, every field geologist has had scrapes, cuts, bruises, and assorted sore muscles from their work.

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### **Question # 50**

Tell me what advice would you give to someone considering a career in volcanology?

#### **Answer:-**

Go for it! There are many different types of careers you can have. You don't need to be adventurous and like field work, you can be a modeler, but I think that anyone, no matter what they do, should try to experience a volcanic eruption at least once in their life. This is why I wrote "The Volcano Adventure Guide".

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### **Question # 51**

Tell me what's the most difficult thing about being a volcanologist?

#### **Answer:-**

During eruptions that last for long, it's very hard to spend most of your days working, and being continuously stressed about the terrible consequences of lava invading villages, and to be able to be calm and discuss with the frightened population of the threatened villages. It is also very hard to cope with media during those episodes.

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### **Question # 52**

Tell me have you every been scared or really worried while working on a volcano?

#### **Answer:-**

The time I worried the most was at the end of January 1997 when Pu`u `O`o had completely drained leaving a hole 250 by 400 m and at least 250 m deep. I wanted to attempt measuring the depth of that hole, but I had to do it by walking up to the edge of the hole! We got an estimate, but I could never make myself walk right up to the edge.

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### **Question # 53**

Tell me which eruptions caused the greatest fatalities?





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### **Answer:-**

Volcanic eruptions are not the most dangerous of natural disasters. They cause less fatalities than earthquakes, hurricanes and famines. In the past 200 years, there have been over 200,000 deaths in volcanic eruptions. Four causes resulted in 91% of the fatalities - famine and epidemic disease (30%), pyroclastic flows (27%), lahars (17%), and tsunamis (17%).

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### **Question # 54**

Tell me have you ever been scared or really worried while working on a volcano?

### **Answer:-**

The scariest volcano experience that I had was also in Antarctica. The first time that I worked on the volcano I was there with a fairly large group of people, including a scientist who wanted to study gases that were coming out of the lava lake. To reach the lava lake, we first had climb down a steep face, using ropes, to reach the main crater floor. The lava lake was in an inner crater, another 3 or 4 hundred feet below that.

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### **Question # 55**

Tell me what is the largest volcano you've studied?

### **Answer:-**

Misti is just over 19,000 feet high which is easily the highest volcano that I have ever studied. However, because it is an island and a large part of the volcano is below sea-level Erebus is the overall largest volcano that I have ever studied.

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### **Question # 56**

Tell me what was the other experience?

### **Answer:-**

Here's one from Hawaii, and it involved flying in a helicopter, which is one of the more dangerous things that volcanologists do.

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### **Question # 57**

Tell me where did you go to school for it?

### **Answer:-**

I went to Western Washington University for my Bachelors degree, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for my Master's degree and now I am here at University of North Dakota working on my Ph.D. I will be moving to the University of Oregon this Fall to complete my studies.

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### **Question # 58**

Tell me what do you like best about your chosen profession?

### **Answer:-**

The fact that it is a continuous challenge. And this challenge involves both my body and my brain. My body because many places are hard to reach, my brain because I never end to learn and to have more curiosities.

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### **Question # 59**

Tell me how do you think they have affected the solar system the most?

### **Answer:-**

Volcanism is a major factor on all of the terrestrial planets, so it has had a huge affect in forming the Earth, Mars, and Venus.

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### **Question # 60**

Tell me what are the most famous eruptions?

### **Answer:-**

Some volcano eruptions throught history have been significant in their contribution to science. The following volcanoes were significant for their contribution to knowledge about eruptions, or occurred close to large populations.

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### **Question # 61**

Tell me how do you know when a volcano cannot erupt anymore?

### **Answer:-**

When there are no signs of an active magma chamber beneath the volcano (no unusual seismic activity, no volcanic gasses escaping etc.), and when there hasn't been any activity for a long time span (at least 10,000 years).

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### **Question # 62**



Which are the most active volcanoes?

**Answer:-**

Many volcanoes have been in continuous eruption for decades. Etna, Stromboli, and Yasur have been erupting for hundreds or thousands of years. The following 4 volcanoes emit the most lava. Kilauea (Hawaii), Mt Etna (Italy), Piton de la Fournaise (Réunion), Nyamuragira, (D.R. Congo)

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**Question # 63**

Tell me which were the largest eruptions?

**Answer:-**

The size of volcanic eruptions is determined by the amount of lava emitted. The largest eruption over the past 2 centuries was Tambora in Indonesia in 1815. Large volcanic eruptions are more frequent than asteroid impacts of similar magnitude.

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