

7th Grade Science Aspire Practice #13

Read this passage. Then answer questions 1–4.

No scientist can ever be sure exactly how a volcano will behave or exactly when it will erupt. Consider the latest, most violent volcanic eruption on the continental United States, the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. Serious warnings began at least two months before the eruption: Earthquake activity increased, and a bulge began pushing out of the north side of the mountain. Over time, the bulge grew larger. Scientists watched with anticipation, curiosity, and concern.

Suddenly, on May 18, the mountain exploded in the most violent type of volcanic eruption, a Plinian eruption. At about 8:30 A.M., a strong earthquake broke the bulge on the north side of the cone; the blazing materials from the bulge formed a roaring landslide. Steam and superheated ash from magma and gases that had been trapped under the bulge exploded violently, spewing rock and ash. The explosion sent searing winds down the mountainside, instantly knocking over trees for more than 25 kilometers. A cloud of steam and ash shot 20 kilometers into the sky. Falling ash layered hundreds of square kilometers to a depth of 2–5 centimeters. On the mountain, melting snow mixed with hot ash and soil to form huge *lahars*. The rushing mud left some land covered with a 175-meter layer of debris. Fifty-seven people died, including a scientist who was monitoring the volcano “from a safe range.” Damages exceeded 100 million dollars.

Douglas

2. What characterizes a Plinian eruption? \*

1 point

- A. Violent explosions of great quantities of ash and collapsing cones.
- B. Deep lava flows of very sticky lava.
- C. Spurting lava plumes forming bulging cones.
- D. Exploding bombs and cinders that start massive fires.

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3. What is the best definition for "lahar"? \*

1 point

- A. Explosion
- B. Mudflow
- C. Rockslide
- D. Lava fountain

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4. Which of the following could be used to help predict a future eruption of Mount St. Helens? \* 1 point

- A. A pile-up of snow on top of the cone
- B. A layer of ash that is 2-5 centimeters deep
- C. Increasing earthquake activity in the area
- D. Trees falling down for no visible reason

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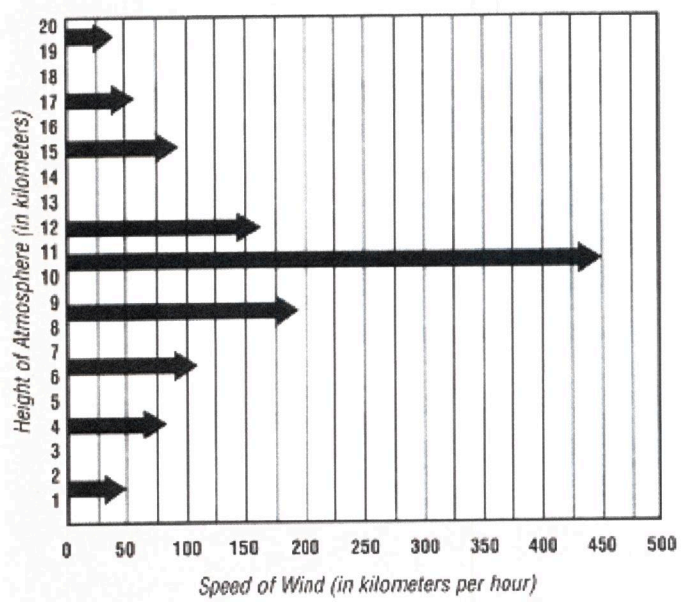
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Study this graph and use it to answer questions #5-6.

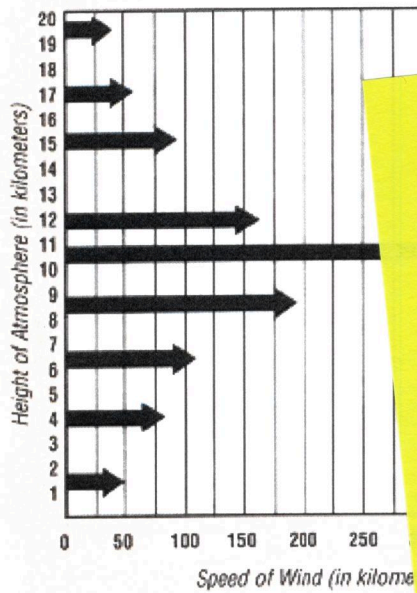


5. What is the wind speed at about 15 kilometers? \*

1 point

- A. 90 kilometers per hour
- B. 170 kilometers per hour
- C. 100 kilometers per hour
- D. 50 kilometers per hour





Day 10

6. What is the relationship between wind speed and height? \*

1 point

- A. Wind speed increases evenly with increasing height.
- B. Wind speed decreases steadily with increasing height.
- C. Wind speed increases steadily up to certain height and then decreases.
- D. Wind speed varies irregularly from 0 to 18 kilometers in height.

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