

Global Catastrophes: A Very Short Introduction

Bill McGuire

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Are you convinced by the arguments that the human race will face 'doom soon' rather than 'doom deferred'?
2. What exactly does 'the end of the world' mean?
3. Is our planet a safer place today or a more dangerous one?
4. What is the evidence that contemporary global warming is a result of human activities?
5. How can human society best tackle global warming?
6. What causes ice ages and when can we expect the next one?
7. Is it possible that global warming can actually bring about another ice age?
8. Just how big is a super-eruption and how can such an event bring society to its knees?
9. What happens when volcanoes collapse?
10. Do earthquakes really kill people?
11. Where should we look for the next great natural disaster?
12. How can we go about preventing asteroids and comets from striking our planet?
13. Why is there less evidence for past impacts on the Earth than on the Moon?
14. Were the great extinctions in our geological past caused by giant volcanic eruptions or impact events?
15. What sort of world do you think your great grandchildren will inherit?

Other Books by Bill McGuire

Waking the Giant: How a Changing Climate Triggers Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Volcanoes (Oxford University Press 2012)

Seven Years to Save the Planet: the Questions and answers (Weidenfeld & Nicolson 2008)

Surviving Armageddon: Solutions for a Threatened Planet, (Oxford University Press 2005)

A Guide to the End of the World: Everything you Never Wanted to Know, (Oxford University Press 2003)

Raging Planet: Quakes, Volcanoes and the Tectonic Threat to Life on Earth, (Quarto 2002)

Italian Volcanoes (with Chris Kilburn) (Terra 2001)

Apocalypse: a Natural History of Global Disasters, (Cassell 1999)

Further Reading

Hamilton, Clive. *Earth Masters: The Dawn of the Age of Climate Engineering* (Yale University Press 2013)

Lovelock, James, *The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning*, (Penguin, 2010)

Musson, Roger, *The Million Death Quake: The Science of Predicting the Earth's Deadliest Natural Disaster*, (Palgrave Macmillan 2012)

Nield, Ted, *Incoming! Or Why We Should Stop Worrying and Learn to Love the Meteorite*. (Granta 2011)

Oppenheimer, Clive, *Eruptions That Shook the World* (Cambridge University Press 2011)

Zalasiewicz, Jan, and Williams, Mark, *The Goldilocks Planet: The 4 Billion Year Story of Earth's Climate*. (Oxford University Press 2012)