

Review Questions

1. Where is Tunguska? What happened there? Why is it important to our discussion of natural hazards? How often do these events occur? (pp. 406-8)
2. What is the difference between an asteroid, meteor, comet, meteoroid, and meteorite? (p. 410)
3. What are meteorites made of? Comets? (p. 410)
4. Where do comets and asteroids originate? (p. 410)
5. Describe the general characteristics of an impact crater. How can it be distinguished from other types of craters? (pp. 413-4)

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Describe the likely results if a Tunguska-type event were to occur over or in central North America. If the event were predicted with 100 years' warning, what could be done to mitigate the effects, if changing the object's orbit were not possible? Outline a plan to minimize death and destruction.
2. How would the effects of an asteroid impact in water differ from those of an asteroid impact on land? Consider what would happen physically and chemically with water and how the impact craters might differ.
3. Compare the velocity of an asteroid or comet, seismic waves, and the velocity of sound waves. Why do they differ?