

Evacuation Underway in Philippines as Mayon Volcano Threatens Eruption

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In the Philippines, about 13,000 people had to leave their homes because the famous Mayon volcano started to spew lava. People who lived within a dangerous area around the volcano were taken to safe places, some in trucks and some on buffalo-pulled carts.

Mayon began showing signs of an eruption last week. More and more people might need to move to safety if the volcano becomes more active. Right now, the alert level is quite high. This means that scientists think there could be a big eruption soon. The volcano is slowly releasing lava right now.

Volcanoes can be dangerous because they can release a quick-moving flow of gas and rocks that are hard to escape from. In the past, eruptions from Mayon have caused lots of harm. An eruption in 1814 killed 1,200 people and covered a whole town. But because people aren't allowed to live too close to the volcano anymore, fewer people were hurt during eruptions in 2013 and 2018.

Even though it's dangerous, many people are excited to see the volcano. Some are even camping on nearby hills to watch it. Officials have even set up places where people can safely watch the volcano. The Mayon volcano is a big part of Filipino culture. It's even named after a word that means 'beautiful lady.'

The Philippines has 24 active volcanoes and two others are also being watched closely right now. Although recent eruptions didn't cause many deaths, typhoons can cause deadly flows of mud and volcanic rocks. This past weekend, thankfully, a strong storm from the Pacific Ocean missed the area around the Mayon volcano.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What can we conclude about the current state of the Mayon volcano?
 - a) It has already erupted
 - b) It might erupt soon
 - c) It is completely dormant
 - d) It is an extinct volcano
2. Which of these statements is NOT true?
 - a) There are 24 active volcanoes in the Philippines
 - b) Mayon volcano's eruption in 1814 killed 1,200 people
 - c) The Mayon volcano is named after a word that means 'beautiful lady'
 - d) The Mayon volcano is completely safe to live near
3. What can be assumed about the alert level?
 - a) It is low, indicating safety
 - b) It is high, indicating imminent danger
 - c) It is high, indicating good weather
 - d) It is low, indicating an eruption
4. "...the famous Mayon volcano started to spew lava." What does "spew" mean?
 - a) expel or shoot out
 - b) absorb or eat
 - c) kill or attack
 - d) build or collect



5. Based on the article, which statement about typhoons is true?
- Typhoons can increase the danger caused by volcanoes
 - Typhoons are caused by volcanoes
 - Typhoons can stop a volcano from erupting
 - Typhoons are totally harmless
6. Why might people be camping on nearby hills?
- They are trying to stop the volcano from erupting
 - They are hoping to witness an amazing natural event
 - They are looking for lost treasures in the volcano
 - They are protesting against the evacuation
7. Based on the article, what can be said about the volcanic activity in the Philippines?
- It has never happened until very recently
 - It is common and carefully monitored
 - It is ignored by the authorities
 - It is welcomed by the population
8. How is an active volcano best defined?
- A volcano that is currently erupting
 - A volcano that is extinct
 - A volcano that has shown signs of activity and could potentially erupt again
 - A volcano that is completely safe
9. People are not allowed to live near the volcanoes. What effect did this rule have?
- It has been ineffective in reducing harm
 - It has been widely ignored
 - It has led to more deaths
 - It has helped reduce the harm from recent eruptions
10. What is the main idea of the article?
- Mayon volcano is a big part of Filipino culture
 - There is a possibility of a big eruption from the Mayon volcano, prompting evacuation
 - Eruptions from Mayon have caused lots of harm in the past
 - The Philippines has 24 active volcanoes

Speaking and Writing Activities:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
- Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.

1. The article mentions that people are camping on nearby hills to watch the volcano. What are your thoughts on this?
2. What are the most common natural disasters where you live? If you had to evacuate, what would you do?
3. Describe a famous natural landmark in the country you're from.

