Questions for Discussion – Reading 1

1. What are chronic and periodic hazards? Discuss some examples and complications?
2. Why may it be important to recognize that within some cultures myths and legends are still used as the primary explanation for natural hazards?
3. What point does the author make about published scientific articles in relation to myths? Do you agree or disagree with his assertion?
4. What is the difference between uniformitarianism and catastrophism? Discuss which model do you think best applies to the earth and why?
5. What factors effect how countries can handle natural disasters? Would you add any others to the list the author makes?
6. How does the Marxist viewpoint apply to human society and natural hazards? Do you agree or disagree?
7. Which areas experience the highest numbers of natural hazard events? Do you recognize any of these areas from your geography quiz?
8. The author presents statistics in terms of deaths, injuries and homeless. What statistics do you think are important to determine the damage caused by natural disasters? What might you add/remove?
9. Which myth described in the reading was your favorite and what was its geologic interpretation?
10. What is the most frequent geologic hazard? Which is the most costly?
11. Below is a graph for the frequency of natural disasters reported from 1900 to 2002. Does this mean that natural disasters have increased over time? Why or why not?



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