

EARTH ALERT! FACT FILES

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SPACE IS NEARER THAN YOU THINK

NO MATTER WHERE YOU READ THIS ARTICLE, IT CONCERNS VIRTUALLY EVERYONE. THE DISTANCE IS 100 KM OR 62 MILES — THIS WAY. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT — IT'S NOT VERY FAR. THERE IS 100 KM OF ATMOSPHERE THAT THINS GRADUALLY UNTIL YOU REACH THE SPACE. IN ALL DIRECTIONS. AN ICY DARKNESS, A DEADLY RADIATION AND NO AIR. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE HOW THIN OUR ATMOSPHERE BUBBLE IS, NASA OFFERS A LOT OF COOL AND DISTURBING IMAGES.

THE TICKING CLOCK

- **THE EARTH IS 4.5 BILLION YEARS OLD, IT'S QUITE OLD. EVERY BILLION YEARS, THE SUN'S BRIGHTNESS INCREASES BY ABOUT 10% BECAUSE IT BURNS HYDROGEN. IF ANOTHER 10% INCREASE WERE TO OCCUR, THE EARTH WOULD NOT BE IN THE HABITABLE ZONE, WHICH INCLUDES LIFE ALLOWED TO FLOURISH.**
- **THE OCEANS EVAPORATE, CREATING A GREENHOUSE GAS THAT TRAPS HEAT AND IMPROVES THE JOB MUCH MORE. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS WILL HAPPEN IN A BILLION YEARS ONLY. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S FAR FROM IT, HUMANS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN EXTINGUISHED FOR A LONG TIME OR IN SPACE — IT IS DISCONCERTING TO THINK THAT THE DEFINITIVE END IS SLOWLY APPROACHING THE PLANET.**

THE SUPERVOLCANOES

- **THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SUPER VOLCANOES IN EARTH'S HISTORY — CATAclySMIC EVENTS THAT HAVE PUT ALL LIFE ON EARTH ON THEIR KNEES, SOMETIMES EVEN COMPLETELY STOPPED. THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR ANOTHER SUPERVOLCANO IS YELLOWSTONE USA. THE ENTIRE NATIONAL PARK IS ON THE SURFACE OF A HUGE RESERVOIR OF MAGMA. SCIENTISTS SAY IT BURSTS EVERY 600,000 YEARS WITHOUT FAIL.**
- **SOMETHING SHOULD BE IN PLACE BECAUSE IT'S BEEN 640,000 YEARS SINCE THE PAST ERUPTION. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE VOLCANO HAS BECOME DORMANT. THE SOIL OF YELLOWSTONE IS 74 CM HIGHER THAN IT WAS IN 1923, WHICH INDICATES A HUGE SWELLING OF THE MAGMA.**

THE EARTH'S ORBIT SPEED

- **IF YOU STAND AT THE EQUATOR, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU ARE SHOOTING WITH THE EARTH AT OVER 1000 KM / H. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EARTH REVOLVES AROUND THE SUN AT AROUND 100,000 KM / H. INDEED, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS ARTICLE, YOU MOVE THROUGH THE SUN ABOUT 87 TIMES FASTER THAN THE SOUND. THE REASON YOU DO NOT FLY IS BECAUSE EVERYTHING HAPPENS ON EARTH IS WITH CONSTANT RATE.**
- **IT'S LIKE IF YOU ARE IN A VEHICLE, NOTHING APPEARS LIKE IT'S MOVING INSIDE AS IT WOULD BE ALL MOVING IN THE SAME RATE. IF THE CAR STOPS SUDDENLY THOUGH — YOUR DRINK WOULD GO FLYING. IT'S THE SAME WITH THE EARTH — IF THE EARTH SUDDENLY STOPPED SPINNING, WE'D ALL GO FLYING, HOPEFULLY IT LETS YOU STOP...**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO EARTH IF ALL HUMAN DIE?

- **EARTH WOULD NOT CARE. IF WE DISAPPEARED TODAY, THERE WOULD BE VERY LITTLE HISTORY THAT WOULD HAVE EXISTED IN A FEW HUNDRED MILLION YEARS. EARTH WOULD LOOK COMPLETELY NATURAL. THERE MAY STILL BE A HANDFUL OF HUMAN FOSSILS, BUT EVERY CITY, EVERY BRIDGE, EVERY IMAGE, EVERYTHING YOU'VE SEEN OR USED WILL BE DESTROYED OVER TIME.**
- **THE EXTRATERRESTRIALS WHO VISIT THE EARTH MAY KNOW THAT WE ONLY WENT BECAUSE OF WHAT WE LEFT ABOUT THE MOON: THESE OBJECTS ARE STILL THERE WHEN THERE IS NO NATURAL EROSION AROUND FROM THE MOON. IT'S STILL PRETTY INTENSE. DOES ANYTHING EVEN MATTER ANYMORE?**