Is Humanity the Next Supervolcano? – KS2 Comprehension

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbHk1ehQJSY>



1. How many mass extinction events do scientists believe the Earth has experienced in its history?
2. Explain as clearly as you can what you understand the phrase ‘mass extinction event’ to mean.
3. What has caused the majority of extinction events on Earth?
4. Sir David Attenborough says, “Most were caused by cataclysmic volcanic eruptions.’ Which of these do you think is the most accurate definition of the word ‘cataclysmic’? Tick one.

* A small volcanic eruption.
* The global temperature increasing.
* A large-scale, violent event.
* A volcanic eruption caused by cats.

1. Which invisible gas is released by volcanoes?
2. What does the use of the word ‘most’ in the phrase “most were caused by…” tell you?
3. Do you know of any other mass extinction events that were not caused by a volcanic eruption?
4. The greatest volcanic eruption of all time is believed to have led to what rise in global temperatures?
5. Find and copy a phrase that shows you that scientists are not certain about the consequences to temperature of the greatest volcanic eruption in Earth’s history.
6. What percentage of life on Earth became extinct following the greatest mass extinction event?
7. Who does Sir David Attenborough claim “is now acting like a super-volcano”?
8. Pause at 1.03. Explain fully how you think the people here might be feeling.
9. Find and copy a phrase which tells you that humans are releasing more co2 than any previous super-volcano eruption.
10. Sir David Attenborough says, “…that extinguished life in the past.” What does the word ‘extinguished mean’ in this phrase?
11. Pause at 1.13. Why do you think the decision was made to end the clip with this image?
12. This clip is designed to shock and scare. Collect three pieces of evidence which support this claim.
13. Do you think it is fair of Sir David Attenborough to compare humanity to a super-volcano? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the clip and your own knowledge.

**EXT**: Have a go at making your own erupting volcano using this guide from the Natural History Museum - https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-volcano.html