The name of the podcast I listened to is “6 Minute Science” and the title was *Volcanology at Smithsonian: Experimental Insights and Direct Observations*.

The name of the person making the podcast was Benjamin J. Andrews.

**Summary**

Andrews spoke about the importance and unique features of volcanoes. He mentions that they’re geologically important. They generate marker horizons that geologists and anthropologists use. He later describes that they are important from a hazardous standpoint as well. They can cause severe devastation with pyroclastic flows, lava flows and mud flows locally. They can cause regional devastation with ash that result in aviation hazards and a dangerous atmosphere. We observe volcanoes to understand them and prepare for imminent threats. Some ways to observe is just to watch time lapse videos of volcanoes and interpreting seismic information.

The plumes and pyroclastic flows of volcanoes could reach 10 kilometers upwards from the base of the mountain and spread outwards in width hundreds of kilometers more. This could produce very catastrophic environments and negatively affect aviation plans in these regions. These plumes, smoke, and other pyroclastic flows can travel at as high speeds as 100 miles per hour and tend to be several hundred degrees in temperature.

Since directly observing these feature of volcanoes is impossible due to the severe conditions, scientists perform experiments to simulate smaller processes of volcanoes in labs to understand them better. These experiments test different pressures and temperatures on volcanic rock samples to understand what temperature or pressure the actual volcano was at during its time of activity.

**Pros**

* very descriptive explanations
* had nice transitions from topic to topic
* spoke with a clear voice
* Was very specific in explaining material

**Cons**

* Spoke a little too fast at times
* Mentioned several highly technical terms without explaining them
* The podcast seemed rushed

**Possible Improvements**

* Spend more time explaining terminology so it’d be easier to follow the podcast
* Spend more time exploring some of the interesting topics rather than just discussing them at a glance

Dear Professor Zepp,

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Sincerely,

Manoj Vasa