

15 Future Challenges

In June 1908, a large **asteroid** crashed to the ground in Russia. This large rock from outer space exploded five kilometers above Earth's atmosphere. The power of the explosion was about 1,000 times stronger than the bomb that dropped on Hiroshima. It is estimated that over 80 million trees were destroyed across 2,000 kilometers of land. More recently, in 2013, another asteroid hit Russia. This one had the power of 20 nuclear bombs. Asteroids are dangerous. A huge asteroid that struck Earth 66 million years ago probably caused the extinction of **dinosaurs** and three-quarters of all **creatures**. Humanity faces other dangers as well. For example, robots could become powerful enough to control and even enslave humans. Nuclear weapons are another challenge. Not only would a war be devastating, but mistakes are a constant threat. Other future dangers include unsafe drinking water, the **eruption** of a supervolcano, and fatal **infectious** diseases such as Ebola spreading around the world.

Check the above bold words, read the paragraph, then brainstorm more vocabulary below.



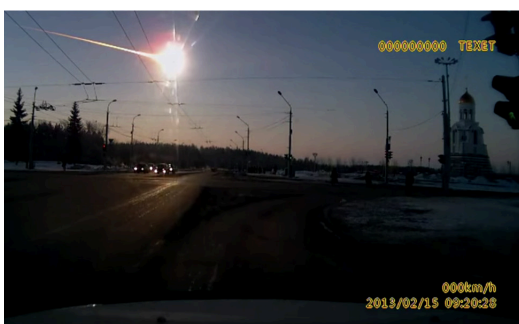
Yellowstone

pandemic



nuke

Arctic ice

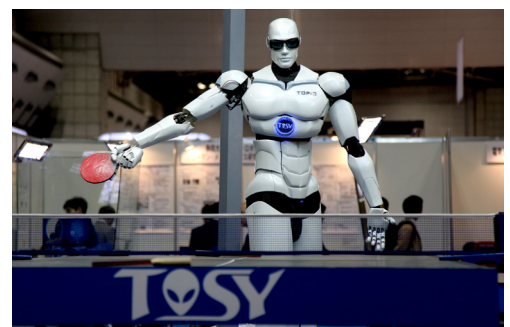


Chelyabinsk meteor

Chelyabinsk meteor

AI

artificial intelligence



TOPIO at Tokyo IREX, 2009