

## Re: dry Meditteranean

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*chornedsnorkack\_at\_hushmail.com*

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Frank Scrooby wrote:

> *Hi all*

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> <*chornedsnorkack@hushmail.com*> wrote in message

> *news:1105978714.572688.289880@f14g2000cwb.googlegroups.com...*

>

> <*much snipped*>

>

>> *As for "eye-blink", remember that a lot of geology forms in seconds to*

>> *slightly longer and then stays there for billions of years. Do not*

>> *underestimate transients!*

>>

>> *Of course, if there were to form a barrier at Gibraltar just below the*

>> *sea level, it would take roughly 60 times more to fill the*

>> *Mediterranean with rock salt.*

>>

>

> *Semi-ignorant question here:*

>

> *What happens if Gibraltar is blocked and Mount Vesuvius (spelling probably*

> *not right - Volcano in Sicily - Pompeii) goes into semi-permanent eruption.*

> *I don't know if the volcano has the lava reserves for this but what if it*

> *starts behaving like the volcano chain in Central America or like the*

> *Hawaiian chain?*

>

> *Assume there is a new eruption every year or two. The lava heads down hill*

> *into an increasingly saline sea. Big sizzle-pop-bang when hot lava meets*

> *cold water. Much evaporation. It will rain down somewhere eventually but*

> *given the ash and sulphur that its going skyward with that is*

probably not

> *something the recipients will be grateful for. How quickly can Vesuvius (and*

> *any other active volcanoes in the Med region) empty (or significantly dent*

> *sea levels) the Med?*

>

Not very fast, I think.

It takes about 550 calories to evaporate a gram of water. I think that water has mass for mass a greater heat capacity than most other substances – including rock. Thus, boiling a volume of water requires cooling down the same order of volume of lava – perhaps more. Who knows the exact answer?