

PROBLEM SOLVING ACTIVITY:

A YEAR WITHOUT SUMMER ??????

BACKGROUND: In 1883, the island of Krakatoa was destroyed by a tremendous volcanic eruption. Huge amounts of volcanic ash were hurled into the atmosphere. This dust remained in the air for several years before settling to Earth. Although Krakatoa is in the southwestern Pacific basin, places as far away as Europe were affected. Scientists noted changes in regional climate conditions, including decreased temperatures. Several years were referred to as "years without summer".

TASK: Using what you know about the patterns of movement within the Earth's atmosphere, explain how the "years without summer" could have occurred. Use diagrams to help with your explanation if necessary.

