

Analyzing Evidence: Yucca Mountain

Statements	Evidence For	Evidence Against
1. No one lives in the Yucca Mountain area.		
2. To reach Yucca Mountain, nuclear waste would be shipped from or through 43 states.		
3. Las Vegas, a city of almost 1/2 million people, is located 161 km (100 mi) from Yucca Mountain. In the case of a severe accident, an area of about 110 km ² (42.5 mi ²) could become contaminated.		
4. Yucca Mountain receives about 19 cm (7.5 inches) of rain per year. The average rainfall per year for the United States is 87.6 cm (34.5 inches).		
5. Scientists believe that the last time a very destructive earthquake (6.5 on the Richter scale) occurred in the Yucca Mountain area was about 50,000 years ago.		
6. At Yucca Mountain, the average temperature is 17°C (63°F). Summer temperatures can be over 38°C (100°F) and winter temperatures average are often lower than 5°C (40°F).		
7. In the U.S., Nevada has the fourth highest number of earthquakes per year (after Alaska, California, and Hawaii).		
8. Yucca Mountain was formed from the eruptions of a volcano that is now extinct. There are seven dormant volcanoes within 43 km (27 mi) of Yucca Mountain.		