The Oracle of Delphi

Geological Perspectives

CC 3.32, Lecture 5

Lake Avernus
(from Greek *aornos* = birdless)

Lake Nyos, Cameroon
- Lake Nyos lies in the crater of a volcano that formed in an explosive eruption 400 years ago
- August 21, 1986 lake Nyos emitted a cubic kilometer of carbon dioxide
- 1,800 people were suffocated

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Degassing Lake Nyos

The Sybil of Cuma
- Priestess of Apollo at Greek settlement of Cumae
- She wrote her prophesies on oak leaves which she arranged at the entrance to her cave
- In Virgil’s Aeneid the Sybil guided Aeneas to the underworld

Map of the Mediterranean
Location of Delphi

The Oracle of Delphi

Sanctuary of Apollo

Delphi: Intersection of Faults
Fluid Flow on Faults

Earthquakes of the Mediterranean

Plate Motions in the Eastern Mediterranean

Tectonic Plates
Plate Motions in the Eastern Mediterranean

Rift Zones of the Peloponnese Region