

Predict Old Faithful

Though most geysers are not predictable, Old Faithful Geyser is famous for its regularity. Use the ranger's formula to predict its next eruption.

Step 1

Open the Old Faithful Geyser Live-stream Webcam. Wait for Old Faithful to erupt and time its eruption from when water begins splashing continuously out of the cone until only steam is coming out.

A. Start Time: _____

B. End Time: _____

C. Length of Eruption (to nearest 1/2-minute): _____

Step 2

Using the table below, find the length of the eruption (C) in the first column. Read directly across to the second column in the same row and note the interval or number of minutes (D) until the next eruption.

C. Length of Eruption	D. Interval Until Next Eruption
< 3 minutes	68 minutes
> 3 minutes	94 minutes

Step 3

Add the start time for the first eruption (A) with the interval number of minutes until the next eruption (D). This is the prediction for the next eruption!

$$\frac{\quad}{A} + \frac{\quad}{D} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Prediction!}}$$

Step 4

Return to the Old Faithful Geyser Live-stream Webcam to find the rangers' prediction for the next eruption: _____ How close is your prediction to theirs? _____

Step 5

Watch the next Old Faithful Geyser eruption. When did it start? _____ How did the actual start time compare to your prediction? To the rangers' prediction? Remember, Old Faithful is a natural feature and changes often, so any prediction may not prove to be exactly right.

