

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word Meanings

Read the short story and answer each question.



Inside a Volcano

A volcano is a mountain that can erupt with hot materials from inside the Earth.

These materials include lava, gas, and ash. A volcano forms when melted rock, called magma, pushes up from deep underground.

Magma is extremely hot.

It stays below the surface of the Earth until pressure builds up. When that pressure becomes too strong, the volcano erupts. Lava flows out, and ash may rise into the sky.

Some volcanoes are active, while others are dormant.

An active volcano is one that might erupt soon. A dormant volcano is "asleep." It hasn't erupted in a long time, but it could erupt again one day.

Volcanoes can change the land.

Lava cools and hardens, forming new rocks. Volcanoes can create new islands, shape mountains, or even destroy nearby forests and towns. Although they can be dangerous, scientists study them to understand how Earth works.



Name: _____

Inside a Volcano

1. What does the word "magma" mean in this text?

- A. Cold air inside a mountain
- B. Melted rock under the Earth's surface
- C. Frozen lava near the top of a volcano
- D. Rainwater that turns into steam

2. What does "dormant" mean in the second paragraph?

- A. Sleeping and not active now
- B. Making a lot of lava
- C. Filled with smoke
- D. Erupting every day

3. Fill in the blank:

Lava turns into hard _____ when it cools.

4. How do the words in the text help you understand what magma and lava are?

5. Why is understanding the word "dormant" important in this article?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Informational (Earth Science)

Introducing the Text

"Today we're learning about volcanoes. Some of the words we'll read—like *magma* and *dormant*—might be new to us, but we can figure out their meanings using context clues in the text. Let's read carefully and see how the author helps us understand these science words."

Vocabulary: volcano, magma, lava, erupt, dormant

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about volcanoes?
 2. Have you ever seen a picture or video of an erupting volcano?
 3. What do you think the word *magma* might mean before we read?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is magma, and how is it different from lava?
 2. What does the word "dormant" mean in the text?
 3. How do volcanoes change the land after they erupt?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did the author help you figure out what new science words meant?
 2. Why is it helpful to know the meaning of *erupt* when reading about volcanoes?
 3. Can you think of other science words that might need clues from the text to understand?
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Activity Idea

Create a "Volcano Word Explorer" flipbook. Students make a mini book with five pages—one for each vocabulary word. On each page, they write the word, draw a matching picture, use the word in a sentence from the text, and create their own sentence using context clues. This allows students to connect vocabulary to meaning, text, and visuals all in one hands-on activity.

