

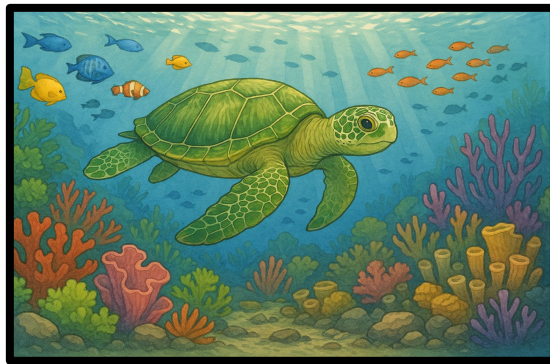
Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



Volcanoes: Nature's Explosions

Volcanoes are openings in the Earth's surface that release melted rock, ash, and gases. Some volcanoes explode with power, while others slowly ooze lava. Volcanoes form where pieces of Earth's crust meet. When these pieces move, melted rock called **magma** pushes upward. Once it reaches the surface, it's called **lava**. Lava can be very hot—over 1,000 degrees Celsius! Volcanoes can shape the land in amazing ways. They can form mountains, islands, and even new land over time. But they can also be dangerous. Lava and ash can damage homes and forests.



Living Near a Volcano

Some people live near volcanoes even though eruptions can be risky. Why? Because volcanoes also bring benefits. Volcanic soil is full of nutrients, which helps plants grow. That's why farms near volcanoes often have rich, healthy crops. Hot springs, heated by underground lava, can be used for baths or to produce energy. People living near volcanoes watch for warning signs. Scientists help by using tools to measure gases and tiny movements in the ground. If a volcano is about to erupt, families can leave in time to stay safe.



Name:

Volcanoes: Nature's Explosions & Living Near a Volcano

1. What is one important idea in both passages?

- A. Volcanoes can be both helpful and dangerous.
- B. Volcanoes are always safe to live near.
- C. Volcanoes only form underwater.
- D. Volcanoes stop working after one eruption.

2. How are the two passages different?

- A. One explains how volcanoes work; the other shows what it's like to live near one.
- B. One is a story and the other is a poem.
- C. Both only talk about farming.
- D. One is about animals and one is about water.

3. Fill in the blank:

People often live near volcanoes because the soil is full of _____.

4. What is one benefit and one danger of living near a volcano?

5. How do the two passages work together to help you understand volcanoes?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: N

Lexile Level: 530L-680L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational / Earth Science

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read two nonfiction passages about volcanoes. One explains what volcanoes are and how they work. The other describes what life is like near one. We'll compare the most important points and look at what's the same and what's different between them."

Vocabulary: volcano, magma, lava, eruption, nutrient

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about volcanoes?
 2. Why might people live near something that can be dangerous?
 3. What kinds of texts might give us different views on the same topic?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the most important idea in the first passage?
 2. What benefits of volcanoes are described in the second passage?
 3. What dangers are mentioned in both texts?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How are the two passages similar and different?
 2. What did each author want you to understand about volcanoes?
 3. How does reading both help you learn more than reading just one?
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Activity Idea

Have students complete a T-chart labeled "Volcanoes as Natural Forces" and "Living with Volcanoes." They should list at least two points from each passage. Then write a short paragraph explaining how the two passages work together to give a complete view of the topic.

