

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



How Volcanoes Shape the Earth

Volcanoes may seem like natural disasters, but they actually play an important role in shaping the Earth. When a volcano erupts, it sends out lava, ash, and gases. Lava flows down the sides of the volcano and cools, turning into solid rock. Over time, these layers of cooled lava can build entire mountains.

Not all volcanoes erupt the same way. Some explode suddenly, throwing ash and rock high into the air. Others erupt more gently, with slow-moving lava bubbling over the top. Scientists study the type of eruption by looking at what comes out of the volcano and how quickly it moves.

Volcanoes are found in certain parts of the world, especially along something called the Ring of Fire. This is a horseshoe-shaped area around the Pacific Ocean where lots of volcanoes and earthquakes happen. That's because Earth's crust is made of giant plates that move. When they press or pull apart, magma can rise and form a volcano.

Even after a volcano erupts, its story isn't over. The land around it often becomes rich in nutrients, helping plants grow. Some volcanic islands, like Hawaii, were formed completely by lava rising from the ocean floor. In this way, volcanoes help create new land and change the shape of our planet.



Name: _____

How Volcanoes Shape the Earth

1. What happens to lava after a volcano erupts?

- A. It cools and turns into solid rock.
- B. It disappears underground.
- C. It floats in the air.
- D. It becomes part of the sky.

2. What is one reason volcanoes often form along the Ring of Fire?

- A. Because Earth's crust is made of moving plates.
- B. Because it's the coldest part of the world.
- C. Because volcanoes like oceans.
- D. Because people plant trees there.

3. Fill in the blank:

Volcanoes can shape the Earth by building up _____ made of cooled lava.

4. How do scientists learn about different kinds of volcanic eruptions?

5. What details from the text explain how volcanoes can help the Earth, not just harm it?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: O

Lexile Level: 590L-740L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational / Earth Science

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read about volcanoes and how they help shape the Earth. As we read, we'll focus on asking and answering questions using evidence from the text to understand both the dangers and benefits of volcanoes."

Vocabulary: lava, eruption, magma, Ring of Fire, nutrient

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about volcanoes?
 2. Where do you think volcanoes are most common?
 3. Why might some people choose to live near a volcano?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do different types of eruptions change the Earth?
 2. What role does lava play after it erupts?
 3. How does the movement of Earth's crust cause volcanoes to form?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What surprised you about volcanoes in this passage?
 2. What does the author explain about the long-term effects of volcanic eruptions?
 3. Why is it important for scientists to study volcanoes?
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Activity Idea

Have students draw a labeled diagram of a volcano and its parts: magma chamber, vent, lava flow, ash cloud, and surrounding land. Then they should write three sentences explaining how volcanoes help shape the land, using evidence from the text.

