

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Quote Accurately

Read the short story and answer each question.



When Volcanoes Wake Up

A volcano might look like an ordinary mountain—but inside, it's full of pressure and heat. Deep beneath Earth's surface, molten rock called **magma** builds up in chambers. When the pressure becomes too great, the volcano erupts, sending magma, ash, and gases into the sky.

Once magma reaches the surface, it's called **lava**. Lava flows can destroy homes, forests, and roads, but not all eruptions are explosive. Some are slow and steady, allowing people time to evacuate. Others erupt suddenly, covering areas in ash within minutes.

Volcanoes are often found near the edges of **tectonic plates**, the giant slabs of rock that make up Earth's crust. When these plates move or collide, they create openings where magma can rise.

Scientists called **volcanologists** study volcanoes to better understand how they work. They use special tools to measure ground movement, temperature, and gas levels. This helps them **predict** when a volcano might erupt.

Prediction isn't perfect, but it can save lives. In 1991, scientists in the Philippines warned of a major eruption at Mount Pinatubo. Thanks to their work, over 75,000 people were safely evacuated before the eruption.



Name: _____

When Volcanoes Wake Up

1. Why do volcanoes erupt?

- A. Because magma builds up pressure underground until it forces its way out
- B. Because the wind causes ash to blow out of the ground
- C. Because rainwater seeps into mountain cracks
- D. Because scientists set off alarms to test their tools

2. What is the main purpose of a volcanologist's work?

- A. To predict eruptions and help people stay safe
- B. To climb volcanoes and collect rocks for museums
- C. To dig tunnels into volcanoes and cool the magma
- D. To create artificial eruptions for research

3. Fill in the blank:

Once magma reaches the surface, it is called _____.

4. What detail from the text shows that not all volcanic eruptions are the same?

5. What can you infer about why volcanoes are dangerous, even if they don't erupt often?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: U

Lexile Level: 925L-1075L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational – Earth Science

Introducing the Text

“Today’s text explores what causes volcanoes to erupt and how scientists study them. As students read, encourage them to identify direct facts and use those details to draw conclusions. They’ll practice quoting the text to support both literal understanding and inferences.”

Vocabulary: magma, lava, tectonic plates, volcanologist, erupt

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about volcanoes?
 2. Why might scientists want to predict natural disasters like eruptions?
 3. What tools might help someone understand what’s happening inside a mountain?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do tectonic plates contribute to volcanic activity?
 2. What tools or data do volcanologists use to study volcanoes?
 3. What quote from the text best explains the process of an eruption?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the explicit facts and your inferences help you understand volcano safety?
 2. What details support the idea that volcanoes can be both destructive and helpful to scientists?
 3. What’s one thing you learned that surprised you—and what sentence explains it?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to create a cause-and-effect chart showing how volcanic eruptions begin and how scientists respond. Have them use direct quotes from the text in each step, and include an inference about why preparation is important.

