

Reading Comprehension

Text and Questions

Mrs Tyler's group
RWI groups

Volcanoes

Active Volcanoes

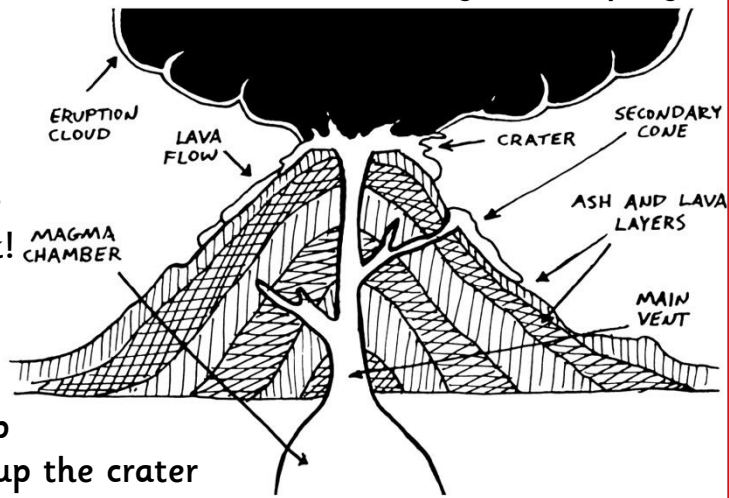
There are 500 active volcanoes around the world. This means that they could erupt at any time! 60 will erupt each year! 10 volcanoes could be blowing their top right now!

Erupting Volcanoes

Why does this happen? Deep below the ground it is hot. So hot it can melt rock! This melted rock is called magma.

Volcanoes happen when magma finds gaps in the Earth's surface. It collects inside the magma chamber. This is deep

below the volcano. The magma moves up the crater pipe, and pushes its way to the surface. Then it gushes out of the vent at the top. When magma hits the surface we call it lava.



Types of Volcanoes

Not all volcanoes erupt in the same way! Some make a hot, runny lava that runs down the sides of the volcano. Some shoot hot ash, lava and rocks high into the air. Some have tall slopes with a crater on the top. These make big explosions! Lava, rock and ash explode out of the volcano.

Deadly Volcanoes

Volcanoes can be deadly! Lava flows can knock down buildings and set fire to things. Ash can cover the land and make it hard to breathe. Gas gets blasted out and makes the air poisonous. Mudflows slide down the slopes, ripping houses and trees from the ground.

Dormant and Extinct Volcanoes

Not all volcanoes are about to erupt. Dormant volcanoes are said to be sleeping, but they could erupt again. Extinct volcanoes have not erupted for a very long time.

Powerful Volcanoes

Just one volcano can affect the whole planet. In 1815, a volcano in Indonesia erupted. This volcano sent gas and ash shooting high into the air. Wind spread the gas and ash around the world. The lack of sun made it hard for plants to grow. Lots of people died because there was no food.



Measuring Volcanoes

Scientists can tell if a volcano is about to erupt. Special equipment is used to help them. It can measure how much gas is building up inside a volcano. They also check for vibrations in the ground. We cannot stop volcanoes erupting, but if we know it is about to happen, people have time to escape.



Helpful Volcanoes

Lots of people live near active volcanoes. They face danger at all times! These people know how to use volcanoes to make their lives better. They grow crops in the rich volcanic soil. The heat from the ground is used to power and warm their homes. Lots of people come to visit famous volcanoes. This makes jobs for the local people.

Did You Know?

Lava erupts at temperatures of up to 1200°C.
There are even volcanoes under the sea!
Volcanoes have been discovered on Venus and Mars.

Glossary

crater pipe	a tube connecting the magma chamber to the surface
magma chamber	hollow space under the ground where magma collects
vent	an opening in the Earth's surface allowing molten rock and gas to escape
vibrations	a shaking movement from side to side

Sue Chattoe

Questions

1. How many active volcanoes are there in the world?

2. What is magma?

3. Why are lava flows dangerous?

4. Name one way a volcano can help the people who live by them.

5. Would you like to live by a volcano?
Explain your answer.

6. What is the job of a glossary?
