



Volcanoes —

Mountains of Fire

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

A volcano is a special kind of **mountain**. **Deep** under the **ground**, there is very **hot** melted **rock**. Sometimes this hot rock comes up and out of the **top** of the mountain. When this happens, we say the volcano "erupts."

The melted rock under the **earth** is called magma. When it comes out of the volcano, we call it lava. Lava is so **hot** that it glows red and orange, like **fire**. As the lava flows down the side of the mountain, it slowly cools and turns hard. This makes new **rock**.

When a volcano erupts, you can often see gray **smoke** and ash high in the sky. The ash can cover the **ground**, the trees, and the houses near the volcano. Some eruptions are small and quiet. Others are very big and very loud.

Many volcanoes are found near the sea. Some are so tall that they rise up from **deep** under the ocean. The **top** of the volcano comes out above the water and makes an **island**. The state of Hawaii is made of volcanoes like this.

Volcanoes can be dangerous, but they also help our planet. Over many years, the rich soil around a volcano is very good for plants and farms. Scientists study volcanoes to keep people safe. The next time you see a tall **mountain** with **smoke** at the top, you may be looking at a volcano!

A. Vocabulary

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|------------------|--|
| 1. mountain ____ | a. a piece of land with water all around it |
| 2. deep ____ | b. the bright, hot flames that come from something burning |
| 3. ground ____ | c. the highest part of something |
| 4. hot ____ | d. the gray or black cloud that rises from something burning |
| 5. rock ____ | e. having a very high temperature; not cold |
| 6. top ____ | f. the hard material that mountains and the ground are made of |
| 7. earth ____ | g. the planet we live on; also the soil under our feet |
| 8. fire ____ | h. a very high hill made of rock and earth |
| 9. smoke ____ | i. going a long way down from the top or surface |
| 10. island ____ | j. the solid surface of the earth that we stand on |



B. True or False

1. A volcano is a special kind of mountain. ____
2. Deep under the ground, there is very hot melted rock. ____
3. The melted rock under the earth is called magma. ____
4. When melted rock comes out of a volcano, we call it lava. ____
5. Lava is cold and gray when it first comes out of the volcano. ____
6. When a volcano erupts, you can see smoke and ash in the sky. ____
7. Some volcanoes rise up from deep under the ocean to make an island. ____
8. Ash from a volcano can cover the ground, trees, and houses. ____
9. The soil around a volcano is bad for plants and never helps farms. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: mountain, hot, smoke, island, rock

1. A volcano is a special kind of _____.
2. Deep under the ground, there is very _____ melted rock.

3. When a volcano erupts, you can see gray _____ high in the sky.
4. Some volcanoes are so tall they rise from under the ocean to make an _____.
5. As lava cools and turns hard, it makes new _____.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What is a volcano?
2. What is the difference between magma and lava?
3. What can you see in the sky when a volcano erupts?
4. How can a volcano make an island?
5. Name one way that volcanoes can help our planet.

E. Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a volcano in a picture, a movie, or in real life? What did it look like?
2. Would you like to visit a volcano one day? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think some people choose to live near a volcano, even though it can be dangerous?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-h, 2-i, 3-j, 4-e, 5-f, 6-c, 7-g, 8-b, 9-d, 10-a

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-mountain, 2-hot, 3-smoke, 4-island, 5-rock

D. Comprehension:

1. A volcano is a special kind of mountain. Deep under the ground there is very hot melted rock, and sometimes it comes up and out of the top of the mountain.
2. Magma is the hot melted rock under the earth. When it comes out of the volcano, it is called lava.
3. You can see gray smoke and ash high in the sky.
4. Some volcanoes are so tall that they rise up from deep under the ocean. The top comes out above the water and makes an island.
5. Over many years, the rich soil around a volcano is very good for plants and farms (and scientists study volcanoes to keep people safe).