

Volcanoes - A Journey to the Earth's Surface

Learning objective: To understand the basic structure and function of volcanoes.

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Finn the friendly dolphin loved exploring the ocean, but today he decided to venture onto land to learn about volcanoes. He met a geologist, a scientist who studies the Earth's surface, at the base of a massive volcano. The geologist explained that volcanoes are mountains that open to a pool of molten rock called magma. When the magma rises to the surface, it releases a flow of hot molten rock, called lava, that can travel for miles. Finn watched in awe as the volcano erupted, sending thick clouds of volcanic ash into the air. The geologist told him that volcanoes are an important part of the Earth's landscape, and help to create new land and change the shape of the Earth's surface.

Word bank: magma · lava · geologist · eruption · volcanic ash

1. What is the name of the scientist who studies the Earth's surface? (1 mark)

2. What is the pool of molten rock inside the volcano called? (1 mark)

3. Why are volcanoes important for the Earth's landscape? (2 marks)

4. How do volcanoes change the shape of the Earth's surface? (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are a geologist. What do you think is the most interesting thing about volcanoes? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a volcano erupting, and label the different parts of the volcano, including the magma chamber and the lava flow.



Extension challenge: Research and write a short report about a famous volcano eruption in history, and what caused it to happen.