

Finn's Great Volcano Discovery

Learning objective: To understand the basic features of a volcano and how they are formed.

Read the story about Finn the dolphin's adventure below and then answer the questions carefully.

Finn the dolphin was exploring a hidden part of the ocean near a tropical island. He noticed a giant, cone-shaped mountain rising from the seabed. It was a volcano! Finn swam closer to look at the top. At the very peak, there was a deep bowl-shaped hole called a crater. Inside the Earth, deep under the ground, there is very hot, melted rock called magma. When a volcano is active, the magma pushes up and spills out of the top. Once it comes out of the volcano, it is called lava. When the lava cools down, it turns into hard rock. Finn watched as the volcano rumbled gently. He knew that an eruption happens when the mountain lets out steam, ash, and lava. Even though it looked a bit scary, Finn thought it was amazing how the Earth could build new land in the middle of the sea. He quickly recorded the information in his travel log so he could tell his friends about the powerful force of nature he had discovered.

Word bank: volcano · magma · lava · eruption · mountain · crater

1. What is the name of the bowl-shaped hole at the top of a volcano? (1 mark)

2. What is the melted rock called when it is still deep inside the Earth? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Finn used his travel log to write down what he saw? (2 marks)

4. How do you think the lava changes once it has finished flowing and starts to cool down? (2 marks)

5. Do you think volcanoes are important for the Earth? Why or why not? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a volcano erupting in the middle of the ocean. Make sure to label the crater and the flowing lava.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Finn. Write two sentences about what you would pack in your backpack if you were going to visit a real volcano.