Finn’s Volcano Adventure

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

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions in the spaces provided. If you get stuck, look back at the text to find the answers.

Finn the dolphin loves to explore the world’s geography. Today, he is learning about volcanoes. A volcano is like a mountain, but it has a secret. Deep under the ground, it is very hot. This heat melts rock into a thick liquid called magma. Sometimes, the magma finds a way to push up through a crack in the Earth’s surface. When it reaches the top, we call it an eruption. Once the magma is outside, it is called lava. The lava flows down the sides of the mountain. After the eruption, the top of the mountain often looks like a big, deep bowl. This is called a crater. Some volcanoes are quiet for a long time, but others can erupt suddenly. Finn thinks it is amazing that the Earth can change its shape so quickly. Volcanoes are powerful parts of our planet. They create new land when the lava cools down and turns into hard rock. Finn reminds us that while volcanoes are exciting to study, we must always stay at a safe distance from them.

Word bank: Magma: hot, melted rock under the ground. · Lava: hot, melted rock that flows out of a volcano. · Eruption: when a volcano releases ash and lava. · Crater: the bowl-shaped top of a volcano.

1. What is the name for the melted rock while it is still under the ground? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. What do we call the bowl-shaped top of a volcano? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Why does the mountain look like a bowl after an eruption? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Why does Finn say we should stay at a safe distance from volcanoes? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think volcanoes are helpful or harmful to the planet? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a volcano erupting. Label the 'crater' and the 'lava' flowing down the side.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist like Finn. Write two questions you would want to ask about how a volcano works.