Finn’s Underwater Discovery: Volcanoes

Learning objective: To understand the physical processes of volcanoes and identify their features.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences for your answers.

Finn the dolphin has spent his life swimming through the world’s oceans, but his favourite places are the deep underwater mountains. Many of these mountains are actually volcanoes! A volcano is an opening in the Earth’s surface. Deep underground, rocks become so hot that they melt into a thick, glowing liquid called magma. When there is too much pressure, the magma pushes up through a long tunnel called a vent. When it finally bursts out of the top, or crater, it is called an eruption. Once the magma reaches the surface and touches the air or water, it is known as lava. Over time, as the lava cools down and hardens, it builds up the sides of the volcano, making it grow taller. Some volcanoes are active, meaning they can erupt at any time, while others are dormant and have been quiet for hundreds of years. Finn loves to watch the tiny bubbles rising from underwater vents, knowing that the Earth is busy changing and shaping the world beneath the waves.

Word bank: magma · lava · crater · eruption · vent · tectonic

1. What is the name of the liquid rock while it is still deep underground? (2 marks)

2. What happens to lava once it touches the air or water? (2 marks)

3. Why does Finn think volcanoes are important for shaping the world? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what is the main difference between an active volcano and a dormant one? (2 marks)

5. Would you like to explore an underwater volcano like Finn? Explain why or why not. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a volcano and label the vent, the crater, and the flowing lava.

Extension challenge: Research one famous volcano from history and write three facts about its most recent eruption.