

TEACHING NOTES

Book title: Violent Volcanoes

Series: Awesome Forces of Nature

Why do some volcanoes erupt and others do not? Where are most volcanoes found? How is land cleaned up after a volcano erupts? Violent Volcanoes answers these questions and more. It includes descriptions of lava, magma, and ash; diagrams of the earth's surface; and images of volcanoes erupting. Case studies of volcanoes in the Hawaiian Islands, Washington state, and Colombia provide detail and personal reactions.



Text Structure: Question and Answer 

Before reading, pass out copies of the two-column graphic organizer. Have students label the first column *Questions* and the second column *Answers*. Then have students turn to page 4 and write the heading *What Is a Volcano?* in the first column. Allow students to raise their hands and answer the question. Record their answers on the board. Then explain to students that authors sometimes organize their writing by asking a question and then answering it for the reader. Have students locate the answer to the question in the text and write the answer in the second column of their charts. Ask students to compare their original answers to the answers the author provides. What were they right about? What misconceptions did they have? Students should continue to add questions and answers to their charts as they move through the book.



Text Feature: Glossary and Index

Explain that the back of the book contains two helpful resources for finding information. The first is a glossary, found on page 30. Ask students: What does a glossary remind you of? (*a dictionary*) How do you think words are chosen for the glossary? (*important words from book, words readers may not know, new vocabulary words*) Verify that words in a glossary are important words from the book that readers may not know before reading. A second source of information is the index, found on page 32. Explain that students can use an index to find the page number on which a specific topic is discussed. Ask: On what page could you find information about avalanches? (*page 17*) On what pages could you find information about hot spots? (*pages 9 and 10*)



Comprehension Strategy: Determining Main Idea and Supporting Details

Read aloud the text on page 14 and model for students how to determine the main idea of the section *What Happens When a Volcano Erupts*.

Think Aloud:

"The heading or first few sentences often tell what a section's main idea is. I'll skim the text to see if that is true here. It is; this section is about what happens when a volcano erupts—that is the main idea. The first paragraph gives me details about gentle eruptions and explosive ones. The next paragraph gives details about the different things that can happen after the eruption, such as ash forming a cloud above the volcano. Those are the supporting details."

Read page 18 and ask students to identify some important ideas. List their suggestions on the board, and discuss that some ideas are more important than others and function as main ideas. Have students place a star next to the main idea. Students who are able to identify main ideas demonstrate that they are able to comprehend and evaluate the content they read.



Word Study: Antonyms

Write the word *dormant* (p. 13) on the board. Ask students for a word that is an *antonym*, or opposite, of *dormant* (*active*, p. 13). Explain that it is important to understand this pair of opposites because they help explain why volcanoes erupt. After reading, have students locate other antonyms in the text, such as *save* and *kill* (p.26).



Writing and Responding: Story

Have students write a story about a boy or girl who witnesses a volcano's eruption. Before students begin writing, have them brainstorm answers to the following questions:

- Is the child outside or inside when the volcano erupts?
- How far away is the volcano?
- What does the child see and hear?
- How does he or she stay safe?
- What damage is done?

Encourage students to use the information and vocabulary that they've learned in their reading to help shape their stories.

 Indicates a graphic organizer is linked to this activity.

NAME



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