

Third Grade
MSTEP Homework Packet # 18

Sent home on _____

Return by _____

Student's Name

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Complex Text

Read the articles “A Look at Volcanoes: From the Inside Out” and “The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius.” As you read, stop and answer each question. Use evidence from the articles to support your answers.

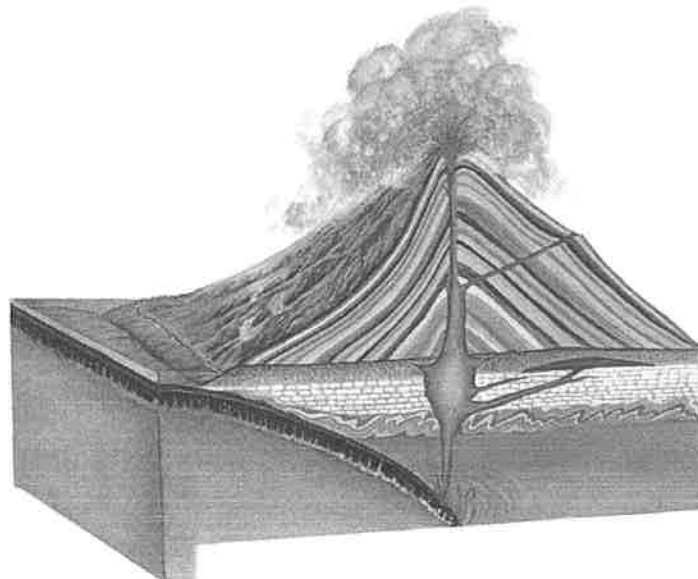
A Look at Volcanoes: From the Inside Out

Have you ever tried shaking a bottle of soda and then suddenly removed the cap? All the liquid and little bubbles inside the bottle instantly shoot up out of the bottle. They make a big explosion that is not always easy to clean up.

When a volcano erupts, something similar happens on a much larger scale. Gases inside the earth expand. They push out large masses of lava, or liquid rock. The lava shoots up through an opening at the top of a mountain. In this way, the earth is like a giant soda bottle. It is not always the solid rock it appears to be.

Volcanoes are found all over the world. They have shaped the planet’s mountains, plains, and plateaus. Volcanoes formed more than 80 percent of the earth’s surface, above and below the sea.

Scientists say that the earth’s surface is made up of a number of shifting plates. When the plates crash into each other, volcanoes can form. Most volcanoes are located along the boundaries of these plates. The boundaries are where the two plates collide.



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1 What information from the article does the illustration show?

Much volcanic material comes from below the plates in the earth's middle layer. This layer is called the mantle. Temperatures there get very high. The heat can cause solid rock to turn to liquid and form magma. When a volcano erupts, the magma breaks through the earth's surface. Then it is known by a different name, lava. When a volcano goes through an active period, the lava that comes out and cools may build up to form a hill or mountain.

People did not always understand volcanoes the way scientists do today. They once thought volcanoes were supernatural forces. In ancient Rome, they believed volcanoes were the chimneys of a god named Vulcan.

That is where the word *volcano* comes from. In myths, Vulcan was a blacksmith. He used his furnace to forge thunderbolts for Jupiter, the king of all the gods, and weapons for Mars, the god of war.

Volcanoes can be destructive. They can bury whole cities in burning lava and ashes. However, the lava and debris from a volcano also have benefits. They turn the soil into the fertile farmland needed to sustain human life.

Geologists still don't know everything about volcanoes. They still have many questions. But the discoveries they have made so far give us great clues. They tell us how the earth was formed. They even tell us what it might look like in the future.

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2 How did volcanoes get their name?

The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius

Nearly 2,000 years ago, in a small town in southern Italy, a teenage boy was living at the home of his uncle. It was the afternoon of August 24 in the year 79 AD. The boy's mother called his attention to an unusual cloud in the distance. This cloud, said the boy, "rose to a great height on a sort of trunk." It "then split off into branches." In some places "it looked white, elsewhere blotched and dirty."

The boy's uncle was a navy officer in charge of a fleet of ships. He was also a scientist interested in unusual events in nature. He decided to set off at once on one of his ships. He wanted to get a closer view of the cloud. He asked the boy, who was also his student, if he wanted to join him. But the boy thought better of it. "I replied that I preferred to go on with my studies."

It turned out that the cloud was not a cloud at all. It was the erupting volcano of Mount Vesuvius. It filled the sky for miles with intensely hot lava and ashes. This debris would rain down upon the surrounding cities and countryside for two days.

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- 3 Use the information in the first article to explain what is causing the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the second article.

The uncle soon heard of the dangers into which he was heading. Yet, instead of turning back, he bravely kept going. He was hoping to rescue some of the many people living near the volcano. As the boy described it, “Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker as the ships drew near.”

Those ashes buried the two cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. It was not until 1748 that the cities were re-discovered. The boy’s uncle died in those ashes. Even though the boy did not understand volcanoes the way scientists do today, he would go on to write a vivid account of that day.

- 4 What is one way in which both articles are SIMILAR? What is one way in which they are DIFFERENT?



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Read the introduction and the story “The Wild World Outside My Window” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Nicky wrote this story about an experience that she had. Read her story and think about the changes she should make.

The Wild World Outside My Window

(1) A week after we moved to Richmond Virginia, I caught the flu. (2) Having the flu isn't fun, because your body feels tired and achy. (3) To make it even worse, I had to stay in bed for several days.

(4) The first day, I read three books, but by the second day, I was bored silly. (5) Then an interesting thing happened. (6) I noticed something flash past my window. (7) I looked outside and saw a strange bird with a long neck and long legs perched on a rock in our yard!

(8) “That's a blue heron,” Mom said. (9) “They wade in shallow water and catch fish with there sharp beaks.” (10) Then, Mom and me watched a squirrel chase another squirrel around the trunk of our walnut tree. (11) Later, I saw three black crows hopping from tree to tree and six gray birds hunting for worms on the ground. (12) Then, a brown rabbit with a white tail hopped out of the bushes and sniffed at a pile of leaves.

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(13) Staying in bed wasn't so bad after all. (14) The squirrels, birds, and rabbit kept me from getting bored and showed me an exciting world right outside my bedroom window.

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on the changes Nicky should make.

- 6 What change should be made in sentence 1?
- F change *we* to **us**
 - G add a comma after *Richmond*
 - H remove the comma after *Virginia*
 - I change *flu* to **flew**
- 7 Which sentence could BEST be added after sentence 7?
- A I ate soup that Mom made.
 - B I read my book for a while.
 - C I called Mom into my room.
 - D I saw an unusual bird with long legs.
- 8 What change should be made in sentence 8?
- F change *Thats* to **That's**
 - G change *blue* to **blew**
 - H remove the comma after *heron*
 - I change *said* to **say**

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Revising and Editing

- 9 What change should be made in sentence 9?
- A change *shallow* to **shalow**
 - B add a comma after *fish*
 - C change *there* to **their**
 - D change *beaks* to **bekes**
- 10 What change should be made in sentence 10?
- F change *Mom* to **mom**
 - G change *me* to **I**
 - H add a comma after *watched*
 - I change *our* to **are**