Volcanoes

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Magma is melted rock underground. When it comes out of a volcano, it is called **lava**. Volcanoes can be **active**, **dormant** or **extinct**.

Remember: magma is **m**elted rock in the **m**iddle (under the ground); lava is on the **l**and.

Volcanoes



A **volcano** is an opening in the Earth's crust where melted rock, gas and ash can escape.

Deep underground, it is so hot that rock melts. Melted rock under the ground is called **magma**. Magma is lighter than the solid rock around it, so it slowly rises. When enough pressure builds up, the magma bursts out. This is called an **eruption**.

Once magma reaches the surface, it is called **lava**. Lava can be hotter than 1,000 degrees Celsius! As it flows and cools, it hardens into new rock. Over many eruptions, layers of cooled lava and ash can build a tall, cone-shaped mountain.

Scientists describe volcanoes in three ways. An **active** volcano has erupted recently or might erupt soon. A **dormant** volcano is "sleeping": it hasn't erupted for a long time but could again. An **extinct** volcano is not expected to ever erupt again.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is magma?

(a) Melted rock under the ground (b) Cooled rock (c) A kind of cloud

2. What is magma called once it reaches the surface?

(a) Ash (b) Lava (c) Crust

3. What happens when lava cools?

(a) It turns into water. (b) It disappears. (c) It hardens into new rock.

4. A volcano that hasn't erupted for a long time but could again is...

(a) active (b) dormant (c) extinct

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2. True or false?

Circle true or false.

1. Lava is very hot. true false
2. Magma is found high in the sky. true false
3. Cooled lava becomes rock. true false
4. An extinct volcano erupts every day. true false
5. Volcanoes can build mountains. true false
6. Volcanoes are made of ice. true false

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Why do you think scientists watch active volcanoes carefully?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **What is magma?**
   (a) **Melted rock under the ground** (b) Cooled rock (c) A kind of cloud

2. **What is magma called once it reaches the surface?**
   (a) Ash (b) **Lava** (c) Crust

3. **What happens when lava cools?**
   (a) It turns into water. (b) It disappears. (c) **It hardens into new rock.**

4. **A volcano that hasn't erupted for a long time but could again is...**
   (a) active (b) **dormant** (c) extinct

2. True or false?

1	Lava is very hot.	**true**	false
2	Magma is found high in the sky.	true	**false**
3	Cooled lava becomes rock.	**true**	false
4	An extinct volcano erupts every day.	true	**false**
5	Volcanoes can build mountains.	**true**	false
6	Volcanoes are made of ice.	true	**false**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Why do you think scientists watch active volcanoes carefully?**
   So they can warn people living nearby to leave before an eruption.