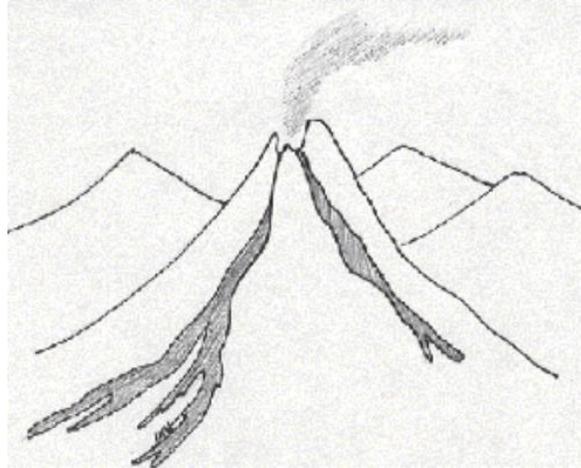


Earth Science - Volcanoes

by ReadWorks

In Hawaii, there is an active volcano named Kilauea (*kill-a-way-a*). It is one of the most active volcanoes in the world.



Lynn M. Hanousek

Illustration by Lynn M. Hanousek

When plates in the earth spread apart, molten lava comes up from the planet's inner layers. It then spits out of the mouth of the volcano. Lava is very hot. It is 10 times as hot as boiling water. If you stand too close to flowing lava, your eyelashes and eyebrows will instantly burn off.

Lava spews out of a volcano. Sometimes it shoots high up into the air. Lava rivers quickly form and travel down the sides of the volcano. They are a grave danger to those who live on or around the volcano. Lava sets trees and houses on fire. If the flow is fast, people can die if they don't get out of the way in time.

Kilauea is a special volcano because it is on what used to be a small island. As lava rivers run into the ocean, it cools, hardens, and becomes earth, expanding the size of the island. In fact, all Hawaiian Islands were formed from the eruption of volcanoes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Based on the text, what is Kilauea?

- A. a volcano
- B. a plate in the earth
- C. a lava river
- D. a Hawaiian island

2. Based on the text, what is the effect of molten lava coming up from the earth's inner layers?

- A. The lava becomes one of the most active volcanoes.
- B. The plates in the earth spread apart.
- C. The lava is spit out of the mouth of a volcano.
- D. The lava burns off people's eyelashes and eyebrows.

3. Read this paragraph from the text.

Kilauea is a special volcano because it is on what used to be a small island. As lava rivers run into the ocean, it cools, hardens, and becomes earth, expanding the size of the island. In fact, all Hawaiian Islands were formed from the eruption of volcanoes.

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. Everytime Kilauea erupts, the size of the island it is on decreases because of the damage it creates.
- B. The number and size of Kilauea's eruptions impacts the size of the Hawaiian island it is located on.
- C. The Kilauea volcano makes the Hawaiian islands completely uninhabitable because of the toxicity of the smoke.
- D. As the lava for the Kilauea island runs into the ocean it makes the drinking water too contaminated to drink.

4. What can be inferred from the text?

- A. Living close to a volcano can be dangerous.
- B. Volcanoes usually destroy islands when they erupt.
- C. Touching molten lava would not hurt as much as boiling water.
- D. Kilauea is the only volcano on the Hawaiian islands.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Hawaii is in constant danger from the destruction of flowing lava.
- B. Volcanoes spew dangerous, molten lava and can create islands.
- C. Volcanoes only exist on islands because that is where lava is located.
- D. Kilauea is one of the most active volcanoes in the world.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

They are a **grave** danger to those who live on or around the volcano. Lava sets trees and houses on fire.

As used in these sentences, what does the word "**grave**" mean?

- A. small
- B. strange
- C. silent
- D. serious

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Lava hardens when it cools, so _____ the rock can form new land.

- A. before
- B. on the other hand
- C. previously
- D. as a result

8. Based on the text, what dangers does lava cause?

9. Explain how volcanoes both create and destroy things. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.