

THE POWER OF A VOLCANO

Phonics

Syllable Pattern

VCCCV

explode

Volcanoes can explode with great power. The explosion is very hot and very loud. But what makes them explode? How do they change Earth?

Magma is rock that has melted. Sometimes, magma finds cracks called vents on top of the Earth. The magma leaks out into the cracks. The leaking magma makes a volcano.



Magma that has leaked out is called lava. Lava doesn't just leak through a crack. Lava may shoot up like a giant fountain. Hot gas and rocks may shoot into the air. Lava is so hot and powerful it has melted mountains!

Volcanoes can help and hurt the **environment**. They can knock down trees. Lava covers and burns up everything in its path. A volcano exploding in the ocean makes giant waves. These waves **destroy** everything near the water.

But volcanoes also make new land. Many of the world's islands were made by volcanoes. Tall mountains often grow as lava cools off.

We can't always know when volcanoes will explode. But scientists want to learn as much as they can about them. Knowing more about volcanoes might save lives.

Comprehension Explain Patterns and Structure

The structure pattern of this text is cause and effect.

Academic Vocabulary environment

noun that means the natural world



Unlock the Meaning of the Text

Explain Patterns and Structure The author uses a cause and effect text structure. Reread paragraph four. What effects do volcanoes have on the environment? Make a list of each effect.

Academic Vocabulary The words *end*, *ruin*, and *erase* can mean the same as the word *destroy*. How does knowing other words for *destroy* help you understand its meaning?