

Kids Page

VOLCANOES

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Don't blow your top!

Have you ever seen a picture of a volcano erupting? It's really amazing to see all that fiery stuff bursting out of a mountain.

Volcanoes are spots where the Earth can blow its top. Deep under the ground, it's a hot and busy place. Things shift and move. Rocks heat up and cool down again. When rocks get very hot, they melt and turn into a thick liquid called magma. If a lot of magma and gases end up in one spot, pressure builds. Magma gets pushed toward the surface of the Earth because it is less dense than the solid rock around it. Finally, it shoots up through a volcano's spout as lava. (Lava is the term for magma that is no longer inside the Earth.)



When volcanoes erupt in a great explosion of rock and fire, trees and grass become covered with lava. When the lava cools, new rock is formed on the land. This can change the landscape for miles. Entire islands have been formed by volcanic eruptions at sea!

Volcanoes can be very destructive and dangerous. Scientists who study volcanoes issue warnings when they think one is about to erupt. That way, the people who live nearby can go to a safe place.

Anger can be destructive, too. Like magma in a volcano, anger can build up inside us until we feel like we're about to erupt. Those feelings are normal. We all get angry sometimes. But we should be careful not to hurt others by fighting or spewing out angry words. When we react that way, our anger becomes sin.

God's Word teaches us not to sin when we're angry. Instead of blowing our top, we can ask God to help us with angry feelings so we can forgive others and treat them with kindness. We can change the world around us in a good way by showing God's love in everything we do — even under pressure.

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26,27, NIV).

Try this!

With an adult's help, build a volcano model. Use some clay to form a hollow cone that resembles a volcano. Place the clay sculpture in a deep pan, and spoon several tablespoons of baking soda into the mouth of the cone. Stir a few drops of red food coloring into a cup of vinegar. Pour the vinegar into your clay volcano. (Wear eye protection.) A chemical reaction between the vinegar and baking soda will create a miniature “eruption.”

JUST FOR laughs

What did the mother volcano say to the baby volcano?

I lava you so much.

What did the teacher volcano say to the class?

Don't erupt when someone else is talking.



Did you know?

Volcanic minerals can make the soil good for growing things. Coffee is grown on the slopes of Mauna Loa in Hawaii, the world's largest volcano.

Earth isn't the only place where volcanoes are found. Olympus Mons, the largest known volcano in the solar system, is on Mars. Scientists say it's about the size of Arizona.

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