

Science Time

Program Content for January 20, 2016

Read the article “**Live look at the seafloor, just in time for an eruption**” on page B1 of the, January 17, 2016 edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. oceanographer
2. tectonic plate
3. fiber optics
4. seismometer
5. magma
6. lava

Comprehension Questions

1. What challenges have scientists faced when trying to study the ocean and seafloor?
2. Describe what John Delaney’s underwater observatory is.
3. What is Axial Seamount?
4. Describe what happened during one 24-hour period under Axial Seamount as rumblings became more intense.
5. How were the observations from the underwater observatory utilized by scientists when they visited the Axial Seamount site a few months after its April eruption?
6. What are pillow basalts and how are they recorded?
7. What types of measurements are taken by the underwater observatory?
8. What efforts did John Delaney need to take to make the underwater observatory go from his dream to a reality?
9. What challenges occurred once the scientific instruments of the underwater observatory were in place?
10. What are some next steps that Delaney would like to see occur in the future?

Prompts and Extensions

1. Visit NOAA’s Axial Seamount [website](#) for a more in-depth look at the research taking place, read the most recent updates, and view images of past expeditions.
2. Watch John Delaney’s [TedTalk](#) and visit his [website](#) to learn more about the construction and operation of the underwater observatory at Axial Seamount.
3. Read the April 29, 2015 Seattle Times article Sandi Daughton wrote about the April Axial Seamount eruption online [here](#).

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