

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

March 31, 2016

Article: “Ash cloud from Alaska volcano grounds flights”

Tuesday, March 29th, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, **Main, page A5.**

Pre-Reading:

As a class, look at pictures or videos of volcanos (available on the USGS website at <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/index.html>). What do you know about volcanos? Have you ever seen a volcano? What would it be like to be near a volcano when it erupted? Where is the nearest volcano to you located?

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

Abrasive

Angular

Ash

Communities

Conical

Eruption

Geologist

Indicates

Intermittent

Magma

Monitoring

Spokeswoman

Surface

Symmetrical

Volcano

Comprehension:

1. What is the name of the volcano that erupted?
2. Where is the volcano located?
3. Volcano ash is _____ and sharp and has been used as an industrial _____ **(Fill in the blanks).**
4. What can volcano ash do to jet engines?
5. How many known eruptions has the volcano had?
6. Describe a typical eruption for this volcano.

Post-Reading:

Visit the **USGS website** and explore the “**Volcanic Ash Impacts & Mitigation**” section as a class (https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic_ash/) and answer the following discussion questions.

What is volcanic ash? How is it formed? What does it look like? How does volcanic ash spread? Who is effected when a volcano erupts? How is volcanic ash a health hazard? How can volcanic ash impact buildings? What other things can volcanic ash impact? What can you do to stay safe in the case of a volcanic eruption?

Building Language Skills:

Read the following passage, and complete the activity below:

“Volcanic ash is angular and sharp and has been used as an industrial abrasive. The powdered rock can cause a jet engine to shut down. USGS geologists have compared it to flying into a sand blaster.

An eruption of Mount Redoubt in December 1989 sent out an ash cloud 150 miles that flamed out the jet engines of a KLM flight carrying 231 passengers to Anchorage. The jet dropped more than two miles before pilots were able to restart the engines and land safely.”

Create a pamphlet about volcano safety. Why are volcanos dangerous? Who is in danger when a volcano erupts? How might a volcano eruption affect people? How do you know when a volcano is about to erupt? What can you expect during eruption? What should you do before, during, and after a volcano erupts to prepare? How can you prepare for a volcano eruption? You might want to use some of the pamphlets available on the USGS website as an example or to learn more about volcano safety!

To learn more about volcanoes you can reference the following NIE articles in partnership with the USGS on our NIE website.

http://nie.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/10/USGS_05-06-14_Article1.pdf

http://nie.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/10/USGS_05-13-14_Article2.pdf

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. What is the name of the volcano that erupted? **Pavlof Volcano.**
2. Where is the volcano located? **The volcano is located 625 miles southwest of Anchorage on the Alaska Peninsula, the finger of land that sticks out from mainland Alaska toward the Aleutian Islands.**
3. Volcano ash is angular and sharp and has been used as an industrial abrasive (Fill in the blanks).
4. What can volcano ash do to jet engines? **The powdered rock can cause a jet engine to shut down.**
5. How many known eruptions has the volcano had? **The volcano has had 40 known eruptions.**
6. Describe a typical eruption for this volcano. **This volcano can erupt for periods of hours to days or it can go on for much longer periods of time. It won't erupt continuously for many months or a year. It will be intermittent. But the eruption cycle could go on for a while, or it could abruptly shut off.**