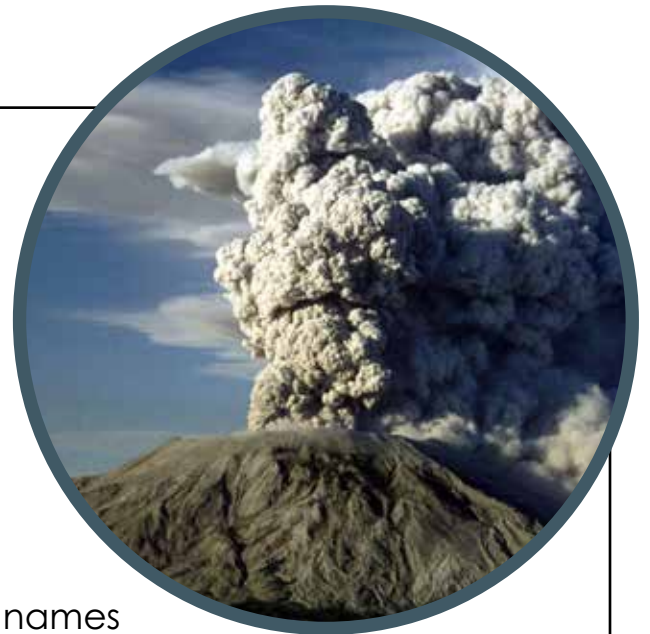


Name: _____

Mount St. Helens

By Olivia Mendoza

Mount St. Helens is named after a British explorer from the late 1700s. But it had many names before then. Native Americans called it Lawetlat'la or Loowit or Louwala-Clough. They mean "smoking mountain." Why was Mount St.



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Eruptions in 1480, 1482, 1800, and 1842 were all as strong as the 1980 eruption. Some were even stronger. But none were as deadly.



Mount St. Helens is pictured here, before and after the devastating 1980 eruption.

When most people think of volcanoes, they think of lava shooting out of the top of a mountain. The 1980 eruption was a lateral eruption. That means it exploded

from the side, not the top. There were many little eruptions in March and April. In April people saw a big bulge, or bump, growing on the side of Mount St. Helens. It was full of magma and gas. An earthquake on May 18, 1980 made it explode.

The deadliest parts of a volcanic eruption are pyroclastic flows. Pyroclastic flows are fast, thick waves of hot air, lava, and ash. The pyroclastic flows from



People began to notice this bulge growing on the side of Mount St. Helens. It was filling with magma and gas.



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A view of the trees blown down and destroyed by the pyroclastic flows.

future eruptions could be even larger than the 1980 eruption. It will be important to listen to their warnings when that time comes.

was almost always active.

There have been many smaller eruptions of gas and ash. But no one has been hurt. Volcanologists—scientists who study volcanoes—know when it's safe and when it isn't. In fact, Mount St. Helens is a popular place to hike! However, they do warn that

Name: _____

Mount St. Helens

By Olivia Mendoza



1. How many feet taller was Mount St. Helens on May 17, 1980 than it was on May 19, 1980? Why?



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Based on this information, which of the following can you infer?

- a. People had no idea Mount St. Helens could erupt in May.
 - b. All volcanoes grow bulges before big explosions.
 - c. People knew a bigger eruption was coming, but not how big.
 - d. Bulges on mountains are always filled with magma.
4. What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?
 - a. to persuade you that Mount St. Helens is the most interesting volcano
 - b. to teach about Mount St. Helens and a deadly event in U.S. history
 - c. to compare and contrast different volcanoes
 - d. to show the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption was the deadliest in the world
 5. Would you feel comfortable living near Mount St. Helens? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Mount St. Helens

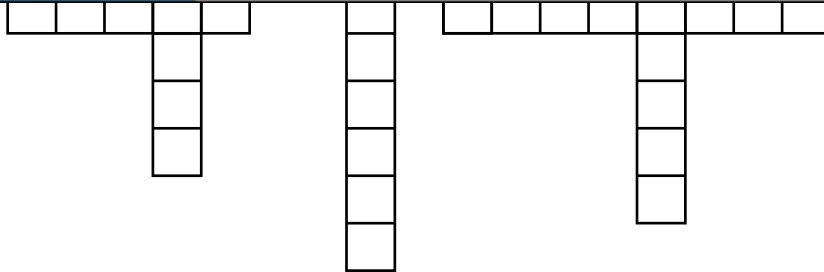
By Olivia Mendoza

Use words from the article, "Mount St. Helens," to complete the crossword. Ignore spaces or punctuation.



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Down

1. a Native American word meaning "smoking mountain"
2. someone who studies volcanoes
3. fast, thick wave of hot air, lava, and ash
4. name of a volcanic arc in the Pacific Northwest
5. describes volcanoes that are either erupting or likely to erupt
8. on or from the side

Across

6. hot liquid or soft rock below Earth's surface
7. quick downward movement of a large amount of soil and rock
8. hot liquid or soft rock erupted from a volcano
9. a bump
10. a sudden, sometimes explosive release of something

Name: _____

Mount St. Helens

By Olivia Mendoza

In the article, "Mount St. Helens," you learned that the May 18, 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens was the deadliest volcano eruption in the United States. However, there was no liquid lava.

Imagine someone tells you that liquid lava is the most dangerous part of a volcanic eruption. Using facts and information in the article, explain why that is incorrect. Make



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Mount St. Helens



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d. to show the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption was the deadliest in the world

5. Would you feel comfortable living near Mount St. Helens? Why or why not?

Answers will vary. Examples: Yes, because volcanologists can predict when it will erupt. / No, because it had the deadliest eruption in U.S. history.

Mount St. Helens



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- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. fast, thick wave of hot air, lava, and ash | amount of soil and rock |
| 4. name of a volcanic arc in the Pacific Northwest | 8. hot liquid or soft rock erupted from a volcano |
| 5. describes volcanoes that are either erupting or likely to erupt | 9. a bump |
| 8. on or from the side | 10. a sudden, sometimes explosive release of something |