Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Volcanoes Form

Volcanoes are mountains that can erupt with hot lava, ash, and gases. But how do volcanoes form? It all starts deep beneath the Earth's surface. The Earth's crust is made up of huge pieces called tectonic plates. Sometimes these plates move, and when they collide or separate, it can create a volcano.

When two tectonic plates collide, one plate can be forced beneath the other in a process called subduction. The plate that is forced down starts to melt due to the extreme heat inside the Earth. This molten rock, called magma, rises up through the Earth's crust. When the pressure becomes too much, the magma erupts onto the surface, creating a volcano.

Sometimes, when tectonic plates move apart, magma from deep inside the Earth can push through the cracks. As the magma cools and hardens, it forms new rock layers. Over time, these layers build up to create a volcano.

Volcanoes can be dangerous, but they also play an important role in shaping the Earth's landscape. They create new land, provide fertile soil for plants to grow, and even help regulate the Earth's temperature.

Questions

1. How do volcanoes form?

---

2. What is the molten rock called that rises up through the Earth's crust?

---

3. What happens when tectonic plates move apart?

---

4. Why are volcanoes important for the Earth's landscape?

---

5. What can happen when the pressure of magma becomes too much?

Answer Key

1. Volcanoes form when tectonic plates collide or separate, causing magma to erupt onto the surface.
2. Magma
3. Magma can push through the cracks and cool to form new rock layers, building up to create a volcano.
4. Volcanoes create new land, provide fertile soil, and help regulate the Earth's temperature.
5. The magma erupts onto the surface, creating a volcano.