

Reading Comprehension

Name: _____ Due Date: _____

The word 'volcano' is derived from the word Vulcan who was the ancient god of fire in Roman legends. In AD 79 the Roman city of Pompeii was buried under ash from Mount Vesuvius, one of the world's most famous volcanoes, and many citizens died. Despite the danger, however, people still farm on the slopes of active volcanoes throughout the world for volcanic ash is very fertile.

Volcanoes erupt when underground heat and pressures deep below the surface force hot magma (liquid rock) through weaker parts of the Earth's crust. Often thousands of tonnes of rock are scattered far and wide and lava spews from central or side vents to cool and solidify on the slopes.

Most volcanoes, active and extinct, are found along the 'ring of fire' which circles the Pacific Ocean off the American, Australian and Asian coasts.

1. All clues to your answers are in the passage.

- (a) Find a synonym for 'dispersed' in the passage. _____
- (b) What are the openings in the volcano called? _____
- (c) What is name given to the molten rock deep under the surface? _____
- (d) Lava is found on the surface. True or false? _____
- (e) Find an antonym for 'modern' in the passage. _____
- (f) Vulcan was the greatest Roman god. Fact or opinion? _____
- (g) What causes the rock to melt? _____
- (h) If a volcano is alive, which word describes it? _____
- (i) Most volcanoes are found in or near which ocean? _____
- (j) In which country is Pompeii found? _____



Challenge!

- 1. (a) How many years since Vesuvius erupted in AD 79? _____
- (b) What name is given to volcanoes which no longer erupt? _____
- (c) Which word explains why people still live on volcanoes? _____
- (d) Find a synonym for 'surface' in the passage. _____