Compare and Contrast

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Texts About Volcanoes

Text 1: Kilauea is a volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. It sits on the side of a bigger volcano called Mauna Loa. It is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. It has erupted many times in the last hundred years. Its lava is runny, almost like warm syrup. Because the lava is so runny, gas escapes from it easily. So most eruptions at Kilauea are gentle. Lava pours out in glowing rivers instead of bursting into the sky. The glowing lava is easiest to see at night. The lava flows slowly downhill toward the ocean. When it reaches the water, it cools and hardens into new black rock. In this way, Kilauea makes the island a little bigger. Roads near the volcano sometimes close when lava flows across them. Scientists at a nearby station measure its shaking every day. Visitors can sometimes watch the glowing lava from a safe distance in a national park.

Text 2: Mount St. Helens is a volcano in Washington State. It is part of a long chain of mountains called the Cascades. Before 1980, it had a smooth, snowy top. Its lava is thick and sticky, like cold peanut butter. Gas gets trapped inside thick lava. Pressure builds up until the volcano blasts open. That is what happened on May 18, 1980. For weeks before the blast, the mountain bulged and shook. Scientists warned people to leave the area. The north side of the mountain slid away. A huge cloud of ash shot about fifteen miles into the sky. Ash fell on towns hundreds of miles away. The blast knocked down forests for miles around. Afterward, a wide crater sat where the top had been. The mountain was about 1,300 feet shorter. Today, scientists watch the volcano closely with special tools. Plants and animals have slowly returned to the land around it.

1. Which detail appears in both texts?
   - Lava flows down toward the ocean.
   - Scientists watch the volcano closely.
   - Ash fell on towns far away.
   - The lava is thick and sticky.

2. How is the lava of the two volcanoes different?
   - The lava at both volcanoes is runny like syrup.
   - Kilauea's lava is runny; St. Helens' lava is thick.
   - The lava at both volcanoes is thick and sticky.
   - Kilauea's lava is thick; St. Helens' lava is runny.

3. According to Text 1, why are most Kilauea eruptions gentle?
   - Scientists measure the shaking every day.
   - The volcano sits inside a national park.
   - Gas escapes easily from runny lava.
   - The lava cools when it reaches the ocean.

4. According to Text 2, why did Mount St. Helens blast open?
   - Snow on the top melted into the lava.
   - Runny lava poured down the north side.
   - Gas trapped in thick lava built up pressure.
   - Lava reached the water and cooled fast.

5. Which detail is only in Text 1?
A volcano can lose part of its top.
Plants can grow back after an eruption.
Lava can make an island bigger.
Ash can fall hundreds of miles away.

6. Which detail is only in Text 2?
Lava hardens into new black rock.
The lava looks like warm syrup.
Plants and animals slowly came back.
Visitors watch from a national park.

7. Which text gives the exact date of an eruption?
both texts Text 2 neither text Text 1

8. What does "pressure" mean in "Pressure builds up until the volcano blasts open"?
a cloud of gray ash a strong push from inside a crack in the ground
a slow, gentle flow

9. Which claim does NOT appear in either text?
Kilauea has erupted many times.
Mount St. Helens lost part of its top.
Volcanoes only form near the ocean.
Ash shot about fifteen miles high.

10. Using both texts, which best explains why the two eruptions were so different?
One volcano is in Hawaii and one is in Washington.
Scientists watch one volcano more closely than the other.
One volcano is near the ocean and one has a snowy top.
The kind of lava changed how easily gas got out.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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