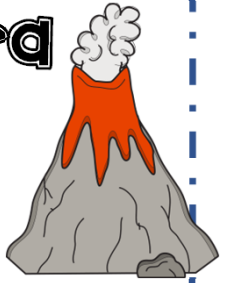


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The Eruption of Mount Tambora



In the year 1815, something extraordinary happened on the Indonesian island of Sumbawa. Mount Tambora, a massive volcano, erupted with unimaginable force. Here's what we know about this cataclysmic event. Mount Tambora had been dormant for centuries, but on April 10, 1815, it unleashed its fury. The eruption was colossal, spewing out an estimated 36 cubic miles (150 cubic kilometers) of rock, ash, and gas. To put that in perspective, it's like filling up 150 million Olympic-sized swimming pools! The explosion was so powerful that it could be seen from a staggering 808 miles (1,300 kilometers) away. Imagine witnessing a volcanic plume stretching across the horizon like a dark curtain. The eruption caused immediate chaos. Ash and debris rained down on nearby villages, burying homes, crops, and forests. The sky turned dark, and the air became thick with fine particles.

Tsunamis surged across the ocean, affecting distant shores. The volcanic ash blocked sunlight, leading to a "volcanic winter." Crops failed, and famine spread across the region. But the impact wasn't limited to Indonesia. The global climate cooled due to the ash in the atmosphere, affecting weather patterns worldwide. It even led to the infamous "Year Without a Summer" in 1816, causing crop failures and hardship in Europe and North America.

The eruption of Mount Tambora taught us valuable lessons:

Monitoring Matters: We realized the importance of monitoring volcanic activity. Today, scientists keep a close eye on volcanoes worldwide to predict eruptions and protect communities.

Emergency Preparedness: Communities near volcanoes now have evacuation plans and shelters. Being prepared can save lives during disasters.

Climate Connections: The eruption's impact on global climate highlighted the interconnectedness of Earth's systems. Studying past eruptions helps us understand our planet better.

Mount Tambora's eruption was a colossal event that reshaped landscapes, affected climates, and left lasting lessons. Nature's power reminds us to respect and learn from our planet's forces

1. *Read the reading passage thoroughly.*
2. *Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.*

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Answer according to the reading passage:

1. What is the best way to define colossal in 'the eruption was colossal'?

- a. far away and loud
- b. noisy and fast
- c. great in size, extraordinary

2. Mount Tambora spewed out:

- a. black tar
- b. lava
- c. rock, ash and gas

3. What impact did the eruption have on global climate?

- a. a heatwave
- b. a year without summer
- c. more earthquakes

4. What lesson did scientists learn from Mount Tambora's eruption?

- a. the timing of volcanoes
- b. the role of tsunamis
- c. the importance of monitoring volcanic activity

5. Where were the crop failures felt?

- a. there were no crop failures
- b. Indonesia and Africa
- c. Europe and North America

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The Eruption of Mount Tambora

Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Imagine you lived near Mount Tambora during the eruption. Describe what you might see, hear, and feel as the volcano erupted.
 2. How did the eruption of Mount Tambora impact people's lives beyond Indonesia?
 3. Explain what this reading passage is about in 5 sentences.
 4. Describe what a volcano of this size would look like.
- Explain how you can have an emergency plan for a volcano and what would it be?
 - What 3 questions would you like to ask a scientist about volcanoes?
 - What would happen if a volcano happened in your community?
 - Why is a volcano called one of the world's natural disasters?
 - Research about another volcano and write about it.
 - Find out where the most volcanoes in the world happen.
 - What do you think is worse and why, a volcano or an earthquake?