The Volcano That Stopped Summer

Lesson Plan

Reading Objective:
Children will examine how a historic volcanic eruption changed weather patterns around the world.

Science and Social Studies Focus:
weather and its effects on daily life

ELA Skills: key details, vocabulary, writing

Page 4 Skill: map skills

Vocabulary: volcano, erupted, lava, crops

CCSS: RI.2.1, RI.2.4, RI.2.10, W.2.3, SL.2.3

Guided Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 560L

1. Preview the Issue
Provide students with some background on extreme weather.

Build background knowledge (10 min.)

Pass out or project the video printable.

Then watch our video “Wild Weather.”
Afterward, use the printable to discuss the following questions:

1. What is a swirling, funnel-shaped cloud called? (a tornado)
2. What is one thing that could happen during a hurricane? (Answers include: Water could fill the streets; houses and cars could be damaged.)
3. Describe what it is like during a drought. (There isn’t any rain for a long time; there can be a heat wave.)

2. Read the Issue
Set a purpose for reading (5 min.)

Pass out the issue, and discuss the cover. Ask children if they have any idea how a volcano could change a whole season. They can look at the sky in the picture for a clue! (The erupting volcano has made the sky look dark and cloudy.)

Next, read the As You Read prompt on page 2: “Think about the different ways the volcano changed the weather.” Encourage children to think about this prompt as they read.

Read together (20 min.)
Pass out the Read and Think printable. Use it to check comprehension as you read the issue together, pausing to ask the questions.
3. Focus on ELA Skills

You can use our printable worksheets to focus on important ELA skills. Here’s how.

**ELA Focus: Vocabulary**
(15 min.)
- Use the Word Work printable to deepen students’ understanding of the words erupted and crops.

**Editor’s Pick:**
Report the 1816 News! (25 min.)
(Go to page 2 to see more Editor’s Picks.)
- Pass out the Be a Reporter! printable. It’s a great way for children to summarize the key details of the issue by completing a newspaper article about it. The printable even lets children create their own text features: They can write an engaging headline and draw a visual of an old-fashioned bicycle.
- When they have completed the page, children can be “newsies” and try to “sell” their papers by reading their headlines and exciting parts of their articles aloud!

4. Assessment:
Reading Checkpoint

Pass out the Reading Checkpoint to review key concepts from the issue and assess students’ proficiency on key nonfiction reading skills.

Go online and download our Assessment Tracker. This handy chart will help you keep track of students’ progress on these key skills throughout the year.

From the Archive

Here are two past issues you can use to extend your lesson on weather phenomena:

- **The Day It Rained Fish!** from March 2019. This issue explains how waterspouts can sometimes cause fish and other animals to “rain” from the sky!
- **Wild, Wild Wind** from March 2018. This issue shows children the amazing things wind can do, like carve rock and make trees grow sideways!

**Differentiation Station**

You can find a higher-Lexile-level version and a lower-Lexile-level version of the article online at www.scholastic.com/sn2.

Higher-Lexile level: 630L
Lower-Lexile level: 540L