Afindout! Lesson plan: Volcanoes

Key Stage 2 / Years 3-6 / Ages 7-11

Curriculum aims

- Use maps to locate volcanoes around the world
- Knowledge of the different types of volcanoes and volcanic features
- Describe the process of volcanic eruptions and their impact on the surrounding landscape

Introduction - Sparking curiosity



http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/

Activity

As the students look at the dramatic picture of a volcano erupting on the Volcanoes unit screen, play the recording of the sound of gas and ash pouring out of an erupting volcano. Can they imagine the power of the explosive eruption?

Location of volcanoes - Using maps to develop understanding

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/where-are-earths-volcanoes/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/hot-spots/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/gallery/earth/famous-volcanoes/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/gallery/earth/more-volcanoes/









Activity:

Ask students to look at the map, which identifies some of the well-known volcanoes and hot spots around the world. They can follow the links to the screens to see images within the Famous volcanoes and More volcanoes galleries. Explain the connection between their location and the boundaries of the tectonic plates, and the thinner parts of the Earth's crust. Follow the links to more information about tectonic plates and the Earth's crust on **DKfindout!**

Notes:

Defining volcanoes - Using terms to classify

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/what-is-volcano/http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/gallery/earth/famous-volcanoes/





Activity:

Read the information and discuss the terms active, dormant, and extinct. Students can start to compile their own glossary of volcanic terms. They could also do additional research to discover when the volcanoes featured in the Famous volcanoes gallery last erupted. They could then classify them according to the definitions.

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Types of volcanoes - Understanding the shaping of the land

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/types-volcano/ http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/gallery/earth/more-volcanoes/





Activity:

Using the diagrams and information, ask students to compare the four main types of volcano, and make the link between how the type of volcanic eruption affects the shape and size of the volcano. Look through the four pictures on the gallery, and see if the students can identify the type of volcano before then revealing the captions to check if they were correct. A definition of each type of volcano along with the key features of a volcano can be added to their glossary.

Notes:

Volcanic eruptions - Describing the stages of a physical process

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/how-volcano-erupts/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/lava/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/volcanic-gas-and-ash/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/video/earth/what-happens-when-volcano-erupts-video/









Activity:

Using the information on these screens and in the video, students can create a stage-by-stage description of what causes a volcano to erupt and what happens in an eruption. Consider how the eruption varies depending on the amount of pressure built up in the volcano, affecting the lava flow and the amount of gas and ash.

Notes:

Effects of volcanoes - Considering the impact on humans and the environment

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/volcanoes/volcanic-gas-and-ash/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/ancient-rome/pompeii/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/rocks-and-minerals/igneous-rocks/

http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/video/earth/world-without-volcanoes-video/









Activity:

After researching on these screens and watching the video, ask students to create a list of advantages and disadvantages about volcanoes. What are the immediate dangers and the long-term benefits for humans and the environment?

As further extension, students can go to **DKfindout!** to read about the uses of igneous rocks, such as obsidian, diorite, granite, and basalt by ancient cultures and for building landmarks around the world.

Notes:

Assess the students' knowledge with the Volcanoes Quiz