

Volcanoes

Language

Less common irregular verbs; word-building (verb–noun); vocabulary of natural disasters

Level

Intermediate to upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2–C1)

Comment

This eLesson is about volcanic eruptions, their causes and effects.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Draw a volcano on the board and check if they know some related vocabulary – for example *erupt*, *eruption*, *lava*. Then ask them to discuss in small groups what they know about volcanoes – for example, how they form and where they are.
- 2 Give out the worksheet. Students read the text to complete exercise 1. Encourage them to read quickly to improve their skimming skills. In feedback, consider asking students to summarise the main points of each paragraph.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives detailed reading practice. Encourage students to underline in the text where they found the answer, so that in feedback, they can explain their answers.
- 4 Exercise 3 helps the students develop their academic vocabulary, as in similar exercises in other eLessons. Ask the students first to circle the words in the text (they are in the same order as in the exercise, if students start with the table on the left and then go onto the table on the right). You might like to point out that none of the words occur in paragraph 3 and that the form of the verbs could be different, eg *bury* occurs in the past simple in the text. Then ask students to work in pairs to fill in the missing forms. If the students have access to English-English dictionaries, ask them to use these to check their answers. During feedback, check the pronunciation of *bury* / *burial* and the word stress on the other nouns.
- 5 Exercise 4 help students extend the range of their vocabulary though some less common (but still useful) irregular verbs. Encourage them to guess or work out the ones they don't know, using patterns they're already familiar with, eg *spell* / *spelt*, rather than just looking up the verbs in their dictionaries or verb tables. This will help them to become more independent and confident learners. They could use their dictionaries to check the meanings and forms before you check the answers with the whole class. In feedback, you could point out that *dwell* and *strive* can also be used as regular verbs (especially in US English).
- 6 Exercise 5 reinforces the meaning and use of these irregular verbs. Ask them to work in pairs or small groups, making sure they look for both the correct verb and the correct form. For homework, you could ask students to write a new sentence of their own with each verb. In the follow-up lesson, students could read out the sentences they've made, leaving a gap for the verb (as in exercise 5) and the other students could try to guess the missing verb.
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students further communicative practice on the topic. Ask them to discuss the questions in small groups.
- 8 As a homework project, different groups of students could be asked to research volcanoes in a specific country or region (eg New Zealand, Japan, Chile, Italy, the United States, Indonesia) and to report back to the class and / or write a short report. If they can also print out photos, this could make for an impressive display on the classroom wall.

Answer key

1

1 para 3 2 para 2 3 para 4 4 para 1

2

- 1 F (the eruptions were in Chile, not in Argentina)
- 2 T
- 3 T
- 4 F (*If they could only have read the signs* means that in fact they didn't)
- 5 T
- 6 F (*this zone* refers back to the 'Ring of Fire' – which includes all the areas around the Pacific Plate, not only Chile and Indonesia)
- 7 T
- 8 T

3

verb	noun
disrupt	disruption
displace	displacement
devastate	devastation
notify	notification

verb	noun
emit	emission
bury	burial
destroy	destruction
exist	existence

4

infinitive	past simple	past participle	meaning
cling	clung	clung	stick to or hold tightly
creep	crept	crept	move slowly, quietly, carefully
dwell	dwelt / dwelled	dwelt / dwelled	live
flee	fled	fled	run away from danger
strive	strove / strived	striven / strived	try very hard
withstand	withstood	withstood	be strong enough not to be harmed

5

- 1 crept
- 2 dwell
- 3 withstood
- 4 strove (or strived)
- 5 clung
- 6 fled

6

Students' own answers.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/earth-space/volcanoes/> (how volcanoes work)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/pompeii_portents_01.shtml (story of Pompeii)

<http://www.volcanolive.com> (details of volcanoes around the world)