

Chapter 3. Don’t be Scared—Be Prepared!

Chapter 3 contains information about volcanic hazards and suggestions for preparedness. Several activities suggest how students can appreciate the benefits of living near a Cascade volcano, and can enjoy them, most often from their own communities. Activities are grouped under three themes—“Mapping Your Way to Mount Rainier,” “Living with a Volcano in Your Backyard,” and “Home and Community Preparedness Plans”:

Overview

Mapping Your Way to Mount Rainier

- ◆ **Play-Dough Topo**—Students make a clay model volcano, complete with glacial and fluvial valleys, and then create a topographic map of their volcano.
- ◆ **Topographic Maps and Mount Rainier**—Students explore how lines on a topographic map represent the real landscape by comparing features on photographs and topographic maps. Later, students analyze and answer questions about a Mount Rainier National Park map.
- ◆ **Planning Your Trip to Mount Rainier National Park**—Students will plan a trip to Mount Rainier National Park using topographic, highway, and official park maps.

Living with a Volcano in Your Backyard

- ◆ **The Next Eruption of Mount Rainier**—Through a series of activities, students will examine the hazards associated with Mount Rainier by making a timeline of Mount Rainier events, interpreting hazard maps, investigating the potential effects of volcanic events on their community, and becoming acquainted with how scientists watch for signs of volcanic unrest.
- ◆ **Reducing Volcanic Risk video/DVD**—Familiarizes students with the steps they can take to reduce volcanic risk.

Home and Community Preparedness Plans

- ◆ **Don’t be Scared—Be Prepared!**—Students learn simple steps to preparedness by conducting basic preparedness tasks with their class and family.
- ◆ **A Volcano Tussle—How Much Do We Risk?**—Students play the roles of persons with interest in maintaining visitation facilities at Mount Rainier National Park while faced with the prospect of geologic hazards. They write position papers and later defend them within a group.
- ◆ **Living Well with a Volcano in Your Backyard!—Prepare, Then Enjoy It!**—This activity provides a variety of options for students to explore and appreciate the many ways that volcanoes are beneficial to their community. It includes the Mount Rainier paper model. Students color, cut, fold, and paste a simple cone-shaped volcano and in the process become familiar with many geographic features within Mount Rainier National Park.

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Don't Be Scared—Be Prepared

Overview—Chapter 3

Living with a **VOLCANO** in Your Backyard
MOUNT RAINIER



The objective of Chapter 3 is to provide students with a realistic knowledge of potential hazards to their community and to encourage them to take part in mitigation efforts. Most students have a natural enthusiasm for volcanoes. Encourage this interest and promote an understanding that living near a volcano is an uncommon opportunity and, indeed, can be a benefit to their community. Urge students to view volcanoes as sources for recreation, inspiration, and learning. Inspire them to visit local volcanoes.

Activities in Chapter 3 promote exploration of and appreciation for volcanoes. They encourage personal and community preparedness. The chapter begins with **Play-Dough Topo**, **Topographic Maps of Mount Rainier**, and **Planning Your Trip to Mount Rainier**, in which students construct and read topographic maps and plan a real or virtual trip to Mount Rainier National Park. **The Next Eruption of Mount Rainier** addresses the onset of volcanic unrest and how communities can be affected by increased volcanic activity. Students will learn to read hazards maps, investigate the hazards

in their community, and examine preparations already underway. They are challenged to participate in preparedness efforts in their community.

The **Reducing Volcanic Risk Video/DVD** and activity illustrate how some communities around the world prepare for volcanic unrest. It elaborates on the three steps for preparedness: identification of hazard areas, observations of the volcano, and assembly and testing of emergency plans. **Perilous Beauty Video** in Chapter 2 addresses the volcanic hazards of Mount Rainier. Students role-play the parts of people interested in the outcome of volcano hazards planning in **A Volcano Tussle**.

Chapter 3 ends with two activities that invite discussion about living with volcanos. **Don't Be Scared—Be Prepared** teaches simple steps for preparedness at school and home. For example, with a single homework assignment, students will develop a Family Emergency Preparedness Plan. According to emergency managers, this is one of the single most important steps a family can make together toward preparedness.

Choose one or more options from **Living Well With a Volcano in Your Backyard**. As postassessment tools, encourage students to draw a picture or write a story about a visit to a Cascade volcano. Have them write a story about a future eruption of Mount Rainier, then compare it with the story they wrote as a pre-assessment tool in the Chapter 1 activity **Eruption!**

Don't Be Scared—Be Prepared

Overview—Chapter 3-continued . . .



Our occasional experiences with volcanic eruptions, whether directly or through news and movies, can both fascinate and scare us. As your class progresses through these activities, be watchful of your students' reactions. When discussing the potential for volcanic activity, don't exaggerate the hazards, but don't minimize them either. Remind students that volcanic activity can range from very small, barely noticeable phenomena that occur relatively frequently, to the larger scale, more devastating events that we are more likely to hear about in the news. Although we can't prevent volcanic eruptions, we can prepare to live with them. The knowledge of volcanoes that you promote will not only help students academically, but it will also help them learn ways they can contribute to creating more disaster-resistant communities.

In summary, here are some steps that you and your students can take to mitigate risks from volcanic hazards:

Learn: Learn whether you live, work, or go to school in a volcano hazard zone.

Inquire: Ask public officials how they advise you to respond if there is a volcanic event.

Plan: Plan for how you and your family can be prepared for any natural hazard event.

Participate: Participate in helping your community be prepared!

Make your message clear:

When people become knowledgeable about volcanoes, they can prepare for hazards and then live with greater safety and comfort in their communities.