Volcano Word Detectives

Use syllables and word parts to read long science words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.3 "Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word with three or more syllables. Draw slashes between the syllables in each underlined word to help you read it.

Watching a Volcano

1. Before a volcano erupts, scientists watch for small changes beneath the ground. Sensitive instruments record earthquakes that may happen as melted rock moves upward. They also measure gases escaping through cracks. A sudden increase in these signals can show that pressure is building inside the volcano, although it does not tell exactly when an eruption will occur.

2. To study these clues safely, researchers may place equipment several miles from the crater. A seismometer detects vibrations in the ground, while a satellite can observe changes in the volcano's shape. Scientists compare measurements over time. If the surface gradually swells, magma may be collecting below it. This information helps communities prepare for possible danger and make evacuation plans.

3. Volcano warnings do not mean that every nearby town must leave immediately. Emergency leaders use monitoring data, maps, and local conditions to decide what actions are necessary. Clear communication is important because people need time to understand directions. During an eruption, ash can travel far from the crater and can affect breathing, roads, and water supplies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write instruments with slashes between its syllables. How many syllables does it have?

2. Look at upward in paragraph 1. What is its prefix, and what does the prefix tell you?

3. In measurements in paragraph 2, identify the base word and the suffix -ment. What does measurements mean in this paragraph?

4. Write communication with slashes between its syllables. Which suffix appears at the end?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one factual sentence about a natural hazard. Use a word with at least three syllables, then write that word again with syllable slashes and name one suffix, prefix, or base word in it.

ANSWER KEY

Volcano Word Detectives

GRADE 5 · RF.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every word with three or more syllables. Draw slashes between the syllables in each underlined word to help you read it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write instruments with slashes between its syllables. How many syllables does it have?	**in-stru-ments; 3 syllables**
2	Look at upward in paragraph 1. What is its prefix, and what does the prefix tell you?	**up-; it tells that something is moving toward a higher place.**
3	In measurements in paragraph 2, identify the base word and the suffix -ment. What does measurements mean in this paragraph?	**Base word: measure. Suffix: -ment. Measurements are the results or amounts found by measuring.**
4	Write communication with slashes between its syllables. Which suffix appears at the end?	**com-mu-ni-ca-tion; suffix: -tion**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A hurricane gains energy from warm ocean water as evaporation adds water vapor to the air. e-vap-o-ra-tion, suffix: -tion

Accept reasonable syllable divisions that support accurate pronunciation. For the open task, accept any factual natural-hazard sentence that includes a three-or-more-syllable word, accurate syllable marking, and a correctly identified word part.