

Fast Land Changes

Read how rapid events reshape Earth's surface.

3.10.C "model and describe rapid changes in Earth's surface such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each rapid-change event, then underline one sentence that tells how each event changes Earth's surface.

When Land Changes Fast

- ① Earth's surface can change slowly, but some events change it very quickly. Deep inside Earth, hot melted rock is called magma. When magma pushes up through a crack and reaches the surface, it is called lava. A volcanic eruption can send ash, gas, and lava into the air or across land. Cooled lava can form new rock.
- ② Earthquakes happen when rocks deep underground suddenly move along a break in Earth's crust. The moving rocks send out energy that makes the ground shake. Shaking can crack roads, topple objects, or change the shape of land. After a strong earthquake, people may find new cracks in the ground or rocks that have shifted to new places.
- ③ A landslide occurs when gravity pulls rock, soil, and other material downhill. Heavy rain can soak the ground and make a slope less stable, so a landslide is more likely. It can cover a road, move soil, and leave bare rock behind. A model can show the land before, during, and after one of these fast changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What materials can a volcanic eruption send into the air or across land?

2 What happens underground to start an earthquake, and what does the moving rock cause?

3 How can heavy rain lead to a landslide?

4 What three times can a model show for a rapid change to Earth's surface?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a volcanic eruption, earthquake, or landslide. In the three panels, draw a model of the land before, during, and after the event. Label the event, use arrows to show movement, and write one sentence explaining how the event changes Earth's surface.

		
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PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each rapid-change event, then underline one sentence that tells how each event changes Earth's surface. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What materials can a volcanic eruption send into the air or across land?	Ash, gas, and lava.
2	What happens underground to start an earthquake, and what does the moving rock cause?	Rocks suddenly move along a break in Earth's crust. Their movement sends out energy that makes the ground shake.
3	How can heavy rain lead to a landslide?	Heavy rain can soak the ground and make a slope less stable, so gravity can pull material downhill.
4	What three times can a model show for a rapid change to Earth's surface?	Before, during, and after the change.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Panel 1: **Volcanic eruption.** A mountain has magma below the ground. Panel 2: Arrows show magma rising through a crack. Ash and lava burst out. Panel 3: Lava cools across the ground and becomes new rock. The eruption rapidly changes the land because cooled lava covers the ground and forms new rock.

Accept accurate descriptions that connect each event to a rapid change in land, such as ground shaking, material moving downhill, or lava forming rock. For the model, accept any of the three events if the panels show before, during, and after, include movement, and explain a surface change.