



Hawai'i Volcanoes Printable Reading Comprehension

Grade Level: 4+ | Word Count: 247 | Lexile 800

Hawai'i is home to some of the largest volcanoes on Earth. Two of the most famous are Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. Both mountains rise over 13,000 feet above sea level, and if measured from the sea floor, they are taller than Mount Everest. These volcanoes dominate the Big Island's landscape and play important roles in its history, culture, and environment.

Mauna Loa means "Long Mountain" in Hawaiian. It is the largest volcano on Earth and covers about half of the Big Island. Mauna Loa is still active, with its most recent eruption in 2022. Because of its size, eruptions usually produce slow-moving lava flows that can travel great distances. Scientists carefully monitor the volcano to keep nearby communities safe.

Mauna Kea, which means "White Mountain," is often capped with snow during the winter months. Though considered dormant, it is known worldwide for another reason. The summit hosts some of the most powerful telescopes on Earth. Astronomers come from many countries to study the stars and planets from its clear, high skies. For Native Hawaiians, however, Mauna Kea is also a sacred place, tied to traditions and stories about creation.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park protects parts of these giant mountains. Visitors can hike trails, see ancient lava flows, and learn about the connections between the land, science, and culture. Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea remind us that volcanoes shape not only the islands' landforms but also the lives and beliefs of the people who live there.

1. What does "Mauna Loa" mean in Hawaiian?

- A. Long Mountain
- B. White Mountain
- C. Tall Mountain
- D. Sacred Mountain

2. What usually happens when Mauna Loa erupts?

- A. Explosions destroy nearby towns
- B. Lava blocks astronomers at Mauna Kea
- C. Slow-moving lava flows travel long distances
- D. The entire island is covered in ash

3. **Why is Mauna Kea known around the world?**
- A. It erupted in 2022
 - B. It hosts powerful telescopes at its summit
 - C. It is taller than Mount Everest above sea level
 - D. It produces the fastest lava flows
4. **How do Native Hawaiians view Mauna Kea?**
- A. As a place for farming
 - B. As a tourist attraction only
 - C. As a dangerous mountain to avoid
 - D. As a sacred place connected to traditions
5. **What can visitors do in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park?**
- A. Collect lava rocks to take home
 - B. Hike trails, view lava flows, and learn about culture
 - C. Build new telescopes on Mauna Kea
 - D. Explore underwater volcanoes near Maui
6. **Which statement is supported by the passage?**
- A. Mauna Kea erupted more recently than Mauna Loa
 - B. Mauna Loa is smaller than Mauna Kea
 - C. Mauna Loa covers about half of the Big Island
 - D. Mauna Kea is not used by scientists
7. **What is the central idea of the passage?**
- A. Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea are the most dangerous volcanoes on Earth
 - B. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is the only park in Hawaii
 - C. Only tourists benefit from visiting these volcanoes
 - D. Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea are giant Hawaiian volcanoes that shape land, science, and culture

Answer Sheet

1. A

2. C

3. B

4. D

5. B

6. C

7. D