Name _____

5 Facts About Volcanoes

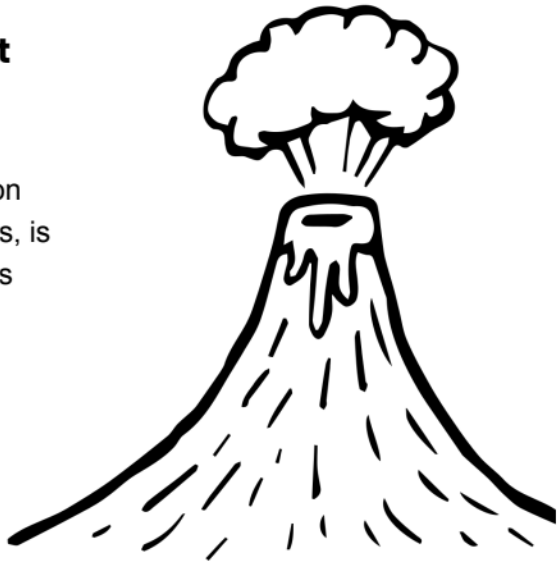
That Will Make Your Brain Explode

(No, Not Really)

1. **The word volcano comes from Ancient Rome.**
   Long ago, ancient Romans named a small island Vulcano. This name came from the Roman god of fire, Vulcan. Ancient Romans believed that the god Vulcan was making things out of metal deep inside the mountain. They believed that the lava and dust from Vulcano came from when he was working!

2. **There are 3 different types of volcanoes: active, dormant, and extinct.**
   Active volcanoes are volcanoes that have erupted recently. Dormant volcanoes are volcanoes that have NOT erupted recently, but scientists think they might erupt again some day. Extinct volcanoes are volcanoes that probably won't erupt ever again.

3. **Earth isn't the only planet with volcanoes.**
   Scientists have discovered volcanoes on other planets! Mercury, Venus, and Mars each have volcanoes. Scientists also believe that Earth's Moon has volcanoes, as do some of Jupiter's moons. Most of these volcanoes don't erupt anymore.

4. **Some volcanoes create a special kind of glass called obsidian.**
   When lava cools quickly, it can become a smooth, shiny glass. This glass is called obsidian. Obsidian is usually black. But sometimes it can be dark brown, gold, green, or even rainbow colors.

5. **Hawaii's Mauna Loa is the biggest volcano...but only on Earth.**
   Mauna Loa is 30,000 feet (9,144 m) from bottom to top! It is the biggest volcano on our planet. BUT it's not the biggest volcano on ALL planets. A volcano on the planet Mars, called Olympus Mons, is even bigger! It's almost as wide as the country of France. And it's three times taller than Mount Everest!