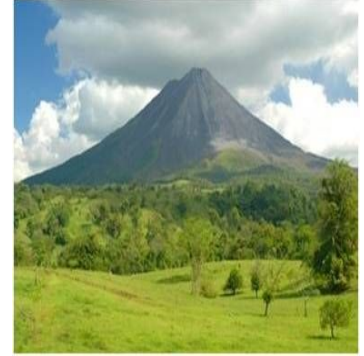




# Reading Science

## The Cornfield Volcano

- 1 A farmer named Dionisio was out in his fields one day in 1943. His farm was in Mexico. He shared his farm with his wife, Paula. The two of them were out in the cornfield. They were burning some branches.
- 2 Things had been strange in the farmer's village for a few weeks. People had heard thunder several times. They looked up to see if a storm was on the way, but they didn't see any clouds. Dionisio also thought this was strange, but he had work to do. He went back into the fields.
- 3 He saw an amazing sight as he was working. The ground in front of him cracked. Then, it swelled about 2 meters in the air! Soon, smoke and ash started to come out of the crack. Loud, hissing noises came, too. The entire place smelled like rotten eggs.
- 4 What was going on? The farmer looked around for his wife and son. He didn't see them anywhere.
- 5 He got scared. The ground was still smoking. He could not find his family. He didn't know what to do. He got on his horse and rode into the village. To his surprise, his wife and son were there. They were waiting for him with friends. Paula had worried that Dionisio was dead when she first saw the smoke. She had gone to the village.
- 6 The family was safe, but things at the farm were not so good. The crack in the ground kept smoking. Ash began to build up around it. There was a pile of ash that grew to be 50 meters high in just 1 day. This was not just a small **fissure**, which means an opening or crack. This was a volcano!
- 7 Soon, lava began pouring out of the volcano. At times, large explosions were heard. One of the men in the village described the sight of the volcano: "Red flames of fire went into the darkened sky. Some flames rose 800 meters or more into the air. They burst like golden marigolds, and a rain like artificial fire fell to the ground."





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- 8 Soon, the lava began to flow down the sides of the new volcano. It was coming toward the villages.
- 9 After a year, the towns were covered. All that was left of them was the field of cooled lava, with two church steeples poking up out of the rock.
- 10 The volcano continued to explode for 9 years. It left a cone 424 meters high when it finally died. It was named Parícutín. This was the name of one of the villages that had been swallowed up by ash. It was the first time that scientists were able to study a brand-new volcano as it was being formed by the forces of Earth.



## Reading Science

1. Another good title for this passage would be—
  - A. “A Day on Dionisio’s Farm.”
  - B. “All about Volcanoes.”
  - C. “A New Volcano.”
  - D. “Dionisio, the Lucky Farmer.”

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2. How might the villagers have felt when they heard the thunder but did not see clouds?
  - A. Curious about the strange weather
  - B. Excited about the new volcano they knew would appear
  - C. Angry because it was going to rain
  - D. Frightened about the lava that was going to swallow their villages

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3. A **fissure** (paragraph 6) is another word for—
  - A. a volcano.
  - B. a cloud.
  - C. lava.
  - D. an opening.



## Reading Science

4. Why were the church steeples able to be seen above the cooled lava?

- A. They were the tallest buildings in the villages.
  - B. They were made out of material that does not burn.
  - C. The lava flowed around the churches.
  - D. The villagers protected the churches.
- 

5. When did the volcano stop erupting?

- A. The day after it started
- B. 1944
- C. 1952
- D. It is still erupting.