

The Volcano That Grew on a Farm



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

In 1943, a new volcano started to grow on a farm near the village of Parícutin in Mexico.

It was a cinder cone, the simplest kind of volcano. Gas blew the melted rock into the air in small pieces, which cooled and fell around the opening as cinders. Little by little, they built a cone 1,200 feet high, with a crater at the top shaped like a funnel.

When most of the gas had escaped, the explosions stopped. Then the melted rock poured out quietly and ran down the sides of the cone as lava flows.

Parícutin was active for 9 years. Its ash covered about 100 square miles, and it destroyed the town of San Juan. Scientists came from many parts of the world to study it.

1. Where did the new volcano start to grow?

2. How many years was Parícutin active?

3. Why did the explosions stop?

4. Why do you think scientists came from many parts of the world to study Parícutin?

Answer key

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1. Where did the new volcano start to grow?
On a farm near the village of Parícutin in Mexico.
2. How many years was Parícutin active?
9 years.
3. Why did the explosions stop?
Most of the gas in the melted rock had escaped.
4. Why do you think scientists came from many parts of the world to study Parícutin?
Sample answer: they could watch a volcano grow from its very start, which helped them learn how volcanoes work.