Read

Genre: History Article

Read the history article. Then answer the questions that follow.

Race to the Rescue

by Lisa Torrey

1 In the winter of 1925, a deadly disease broke out in Nome, Alaska. The disease was a serious threat to the children who lived there. Only one kind of medicine could stop the disease from spreading. However, the medicine was in Anchorage, Alaska. Anchorage was nearly 1,000 miles away from Nome.

2 People were in a hurry to get the medicine from Anchorage to Nome. There was an old mail route called the Iditarod Trail. It linked the two towns. But the trip along the route would be very hard. The route was covered with snow and ice. The howling winds were bitter cold. Rough mountains covered part of the route.

3 Their only hope was to use sled dogs. Sled dogs could endure the long, cold journey. They could get the medicine quickly to Nome.

Statue of Balto in New York City

The Journey Begins

4 More than 20 mushers, or drivers, put together teams of sled dogs. Each team played a key part in the relay to race the medicine to Nome. The first team soon left Anchorage on the first leg of the trip.

5 Reporters wrote articles about the heroic race to deliver the medicine to Nome. People all around the world read these reports in newspapers. They followed each leg of the journey. They became caught up in the drama that was taking place in Alaska. They cheered for the dog sled teams.

A dog sled team running in the Iditarod race.

Balto Leads the Way

6 Amazingly, the team on the final stretch of the journey arrived in Nome only six days later. The musher drove his dog sled team into Nome on February 2, 1925. The team brought the medicine that would keep the children in Nome safe.

7 A husky named Balto was at the lead. Soon people all over the world saw pictures of Balto. People everywhere recognized his black furry face and sparkling eyes. In 1926, a group of people built a statue in honor of Balto. They placed the statue in Central Park in New York City. Balto died in 1933.

8 Over forty years later, people in Alaska wanted to honor the heroic race that brought the medicine to Nome. They also wanted the race to celebrate Alaska and the important role of sled dogs.

9 The Alaskans held a sled dog race in 1967. It was a much shorter distance compared to the 1925 route. The first official Iditarod race was held in 1973. The trail covers nearly 1,200 miles. The race has been held every year since. Mushers and their teams of sled dogs come from all over to compete. It is called "The Last Great Race on Earth."

Think

1 Which sentence from the passage **best** states the main idea of the article?

- **A** "The first team soon left Anchorage on the first leg of the trip."
- **B** "The team brought the medicine that would keep the children in Nome safe."
- **C** "A husky named Balto was at the lead."
- **D** "They also wanted the race to celebrate Alaska and the important role of sled dogs."

2 Paragraph 2 says the trip from Anchorage to Nome was "very hard." Which sentence **best** explains why the trip was hard?

- **A** Wolves could attack.
- **B** It was windy, snowy, and icy.
- **C** There were no routes or trails.
- **D** They had to cross many rivers.

3 Which sentence from the article **best** explains why it was important to get medicine to Nome quickly?

- **A** "The disease was a serious threat to the children who lived there."
- **B** "People were in a hurry to get the medicine from Anchorage to Nome."
- **C** "Each team played a key part in the relay to race the medicine to Nome."
- **D** "Reporters wrote articles about the heroic race to deliver the medicine to Nome."

4 Look at the sequence words in the first column. They show the order of events in the article. Write the letter of the event that belongs with each one.

Sequence	Event
____ In the winter of 1925	**A** Balto's team brought medicine to Nome.
____ Six days later	**B** A statue of Balto was built.
____ One year after the dog sled team arrived in Nome	**C** The first Iditarod race was run.
____ Four decades after the race to Nome	**D** A terrible sickness broke out in Alaska.
____ In 1973	**E** The Alaskans organized a sled dog race.

5 Reread paragraph 5.

> **Reporters wrote articles about the dog sled teams and the heroic race to deliver the medicine to Nome. People all around the world read these reports in newspapers. They followed each leg of the journey. They became caught up in the drama that was taking place in Alaska. They cheered for the dog sled teams.**

How do the key details in paragraph 5 support its main idea?

A They explain how far the dog sled teams traveled.

B They explain how the dog sled teams became famous.

C They describe the route the dog sled teams took to Nome.

D They describe the problems the dog sled teams faced.

6 Read this sentence from paragraph 8.

> **Over forty years later, people in Alaska wanted to honor the heroic race that brought the medicine to Nome.**

What does heroic mean in this context?

A very old

B difficult to win

C very interesting

D done with courage

Read

Genre: Science Article

Read the science article. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Strange Power of Volcanoes

by Magnus Krako

1 In 1963, a ship's captain sailing near Iceland saw smoke rising from the sea. He thought it was a ship on fire, but what he found was much stranger. Lava, or liquid rock, was shooting up to the water's surface from below. Ash, tiny bits of rock crushed to a powder, also shot up to the surface. This eruption went on for more than three years. When it was over, all that lava had formed a new island called Surtsey.

Photo taken 16 days after the Surtsey eruption in 1963.

2 Surtsey was born from a volcano. Volcanoes are found all over the world. They can be underwater or on land. They can also be found in deserts or jungles. Volcanoes can create new islands. They can also destroy things when red-hot lava pours out of them.

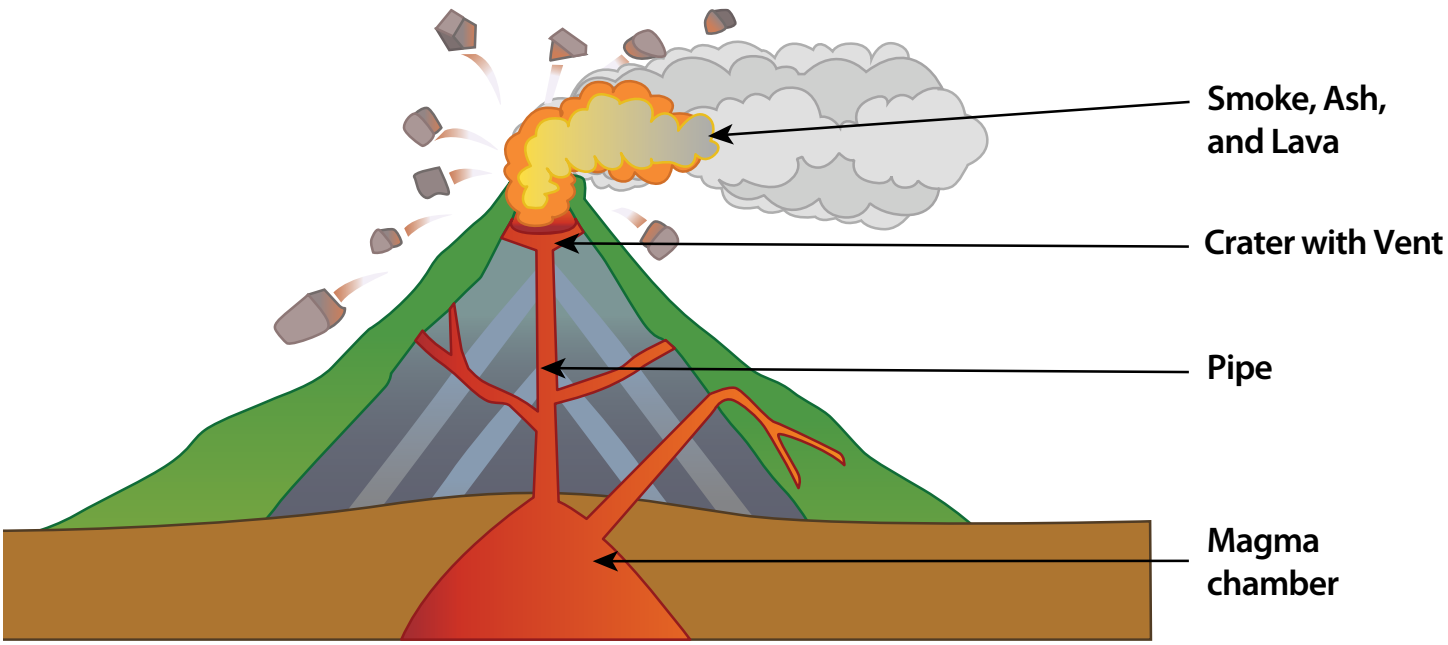
3 Volcanoes are mostly the same on the inside. A long skinny tube called a pipe forms the center of a volcano. The pipe starts at a pool of hot, liquid rock called a magma chamber. The pipe goes all the way up to the crater. The crater is the opening at the top of the volcano. This is where the volcano's vent is found. The vent is a crack in Earth's surface. It lets smoke, ash, and lava out of the volcano.

4 To understand how a volcano erupts, or explodes, think about a bottle of soda. When you shake soda in a closed

bottle, bubbles form. The bubbles create a special kind of gas. As more bubbles form, more gas forms. Inside the bottle, the gas and bubbles press harder and harder against the sides of the bottle. This pressure builds and builds. Finally, when the lid is taken off, the soda sprays out.

5 This is how a volcano works. Hot, liquid rock makes different gases. The pressure from these gases builds up. When the pressure gets too great, the gases push up the pipe and through the vent. The gas pushes other things out with it. Sometimes hot, liquid lava sprays out of the vent. Sometimes tiny bits of rock blast in a huge ash cloud. Not all volcanic eruptions are the same. Some are quick and loud. Others move more slowly with lava that flows like thick honey.

6 The ash from volcanic eruptions can change Earth's weather. In April 1815, Mount Tambora in the Pacific Ocean erupted. It was one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of all time. It sent a huge ash cloud into the sky. For more than a year, the weather everywhere on Earth was different. Summers were cold and cloudy. Snow fell and lakes froze, even in June! All this because a volcano erupted!



7 Choose **two** questions that can be answered by reading paragraph 2.

- **A** Where are volcanoes found?
- **B** How can volcanoes affect the world?
- **C** How do volcanoes erupt?
- **D** When was Surtsey formed?
- **E** What is lava made from?
- **F** How do volcanoes form in deserts?

8 Read these sentences from paragraph 1.

Lava, or liquid rock, was shooting up to the water's surface from below. Ash, tiny bits of rock crushed to a powder, also shot up to the surface.

What is the meaning of surface in this context?

- **A** to come into sight
- **B** to break through
- **C** the middle part of something
- **D** the top part of something

9 Match each cause to an effect. Write the letter from the second column on the correct line in the first column.

Cause	Effect
____ Liquid rocks make gases.	**A** Gases push up pipe.
____ Pressure gets too high.	**B** Pressure in volcano increases.
____ Gas pushes out of vent.	**C** Weather becomes colder.
____ Ash is sent into the sky.	**D** Lava is sprayed out of vent.

10 This question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the main idea of paragraph 6?

- **A** Volcanoes send ash into the sky.
- **B** Volcanoes can be very powerful.
- **C** Volcanoes can have an effect on the weather.
- **D** Volcanoes have erupted throughout history.

Part B

Underline **three** sentences in paragraph 6 below that **best** support its main idea.

> **The ash from volcanic eruptions can change Earth's weather. In April 1815, Mount Tambora in the Pacific Ocean erupted. It was one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of all time. It sent a huge ash cloud into the sky. For more than a year, the weather everywhere on Earth was different. Summers were cold and cloudy. Snow fell and lakes froze, even in June! All this because a volcano erupted!**

11 Which question is answered in paragraph 3?

- **A** How does the magma chamber get filled?
- **B** How does liquid rock get out of a volcano?
- **C** How are smoke, ash, and lava different?
- **D** Why do volcanoes erupt in different ways?

12 What is the main idea of the entire passage?

- **A** Volcanoes are all the same inside.
- **B** Volcanoes are found all over the world.
- **C** Volcanic eruptions are the reason islands form.
- **D** Volcanic eruptions are a powerful force of nature.

Write

13 **Writing Prompt** How and why does a volcano erupt? How can volcanic eruptions affect Earth? Use details from the article in your answer.

Your writing will be scored based on the development of ideas and the language conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics.