

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Story of Mount St. Helens

This activity will help you prepare for the following writing prompt, which appears on page 9:

In the essay above, the author writes that humans are drawn to stories about natural disasters. What about the story of Mount St. Helens might draw people in? Why is it important to remember what happened? Answer both questions in a short essay.

Note: You will need two different colored pencils, pens, or highlighters, as well as the articles "Mountain of Fire" and "The Power of Natural Disaster Stories," to complete the first section of this activity.

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Text Marking

- Step 1** Use a colored pencil, pen, or highlighter to underline or highlight information in "The Power of Natural Disaster Stories" about why humans are drawn to stories about natural disasters.
- Step 2** Use the same color to underline or highlight sentences in "Mountain of Fire" that might draw people into the story of Mount St. Helens, based on what you underlined or highlighted in Step 1.
- Step 3** Choose another colored pencil, pen, or highlighter. Underline or highlight information in "The Power of Natural Disaster Stories" that helps answer the questions: What can we learn from natural disaster stories? Why is it important to learn about them?
- Step 4** Use the same color to underline or highlight information in "Mountain of Fire" that you think is important to remember about the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Step 5: What Draws People In

Review the information that you underlined or highlighted in Steps 1 and 2. Then, in the space provided below, write the main points you will make in your response to the question "What about the story of Mount St. Helens might draw people in?" You can write your points in the form of a paragraph or a list.

Step 6: Why It Is Important

Review the text that you underlined or highlighted in Steps 3 and 4. Think about why it is important to remember the eruption of Mount St. Helens. Write your ideas in the box below. Again, you can write your ideas in a paragraph or as a list.