

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary:

## "Mountain of Fire"

- 1. catastrophic (cat-uh-STROF-ik)** *adjective*; If you say that something is catastrophic, you mean that it is extremely harmful. (*Catastrophic* is the adjective form of the word *catastrophe*, which means "disaster.") Severe damage caused by a natural disaster might be called catastrophic. A simple wrong turn could also be called catastrophic, though, if it results in something horrible happening—like driving off a cliff. An injury might be called catastrophic if it is very serious.
- 2. debris (duh-BREE)** *noun*; Debris is the pieces of something that are left after it has been broken or destroyed. Debris can also mean trash that is scattered around. So you might find a lot of debris on the street after a powerful storm, and you also might find debris on the street after a neighborhood party.
- 3. evacuate (ih-VAK-yoo-eyt)** *verb*; To evacuate is to leave a place because it is unsafe. For example, people evacuate a building if it is on fire.
- 4. glacial (GLEY-shuhl)** *adjective*; If you say that something is glacial, you mean that it is from a glacier (GLEY-sheer) or like a glacier. And what is a glacier? It's a giant piece of ice—possibly many miles long—that moves extremely slowly. (Most glaciers are located near the North and South Poles.) So glacial ice is ice from a glacier. *Glacial* can also mean very cold or very slow.
- 5. ice age (AHYS eyj)** *noun*; Over the course of history, Earth has experienced some long periods when it was very cold and glaciers covered a large part of the planet. These periods are called ice ages.
- 6. landslide (LAND-slahyd)** *noun*; A landslide is when a large quantity of rocks and dirt suddenly slides down a mountainside. The word *landslide* is also used to talk about elections: If you say that someone wins by a landslide, you mean that he or she won by a lot—that he or she got way more votes than anyone else.
- 7. molten (MOHL-tihn)** *adjective*; When something solid gets so hot that it melts and becomes a liquid, it is molten.
- 8. smoldering (SMOHL-der-ing)** *adjective*; A fire that hasn't completely gone out—that is producing smoke but no flame—is smoldering.

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**Directions:** In the space below, list any other words from the article with a definition you are unsure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

## Vocabulary Practice:

### "Mountain of Fire"

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**Directions:** Answer each question below. Briefly explain your answer.

1. Which is more likely to be described as **glacial**: a store with the air-conditioning turned up really high or a peanut butter sandwich?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which is more likely to create **debris**: an airplane crash or a pillow falling off a bed?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which would more likely be described as **catastrophic**: your phone's battery running out of power or a large oil spill in the ocean?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where are you more likely to find something **smoldering**: in a fireplace or in a swimming pool?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** Complete each unfinished sentence in a way that makes the meaning of the boldfaced word clear.

5. If you were to travel back in time to the last **ice age** (about 12,000 years ago), you would want to bring

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Karla Jones won by a **landslide**. She \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Sarah's crayons became **molten** when she \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The roller coaster was **evacuated** because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_