



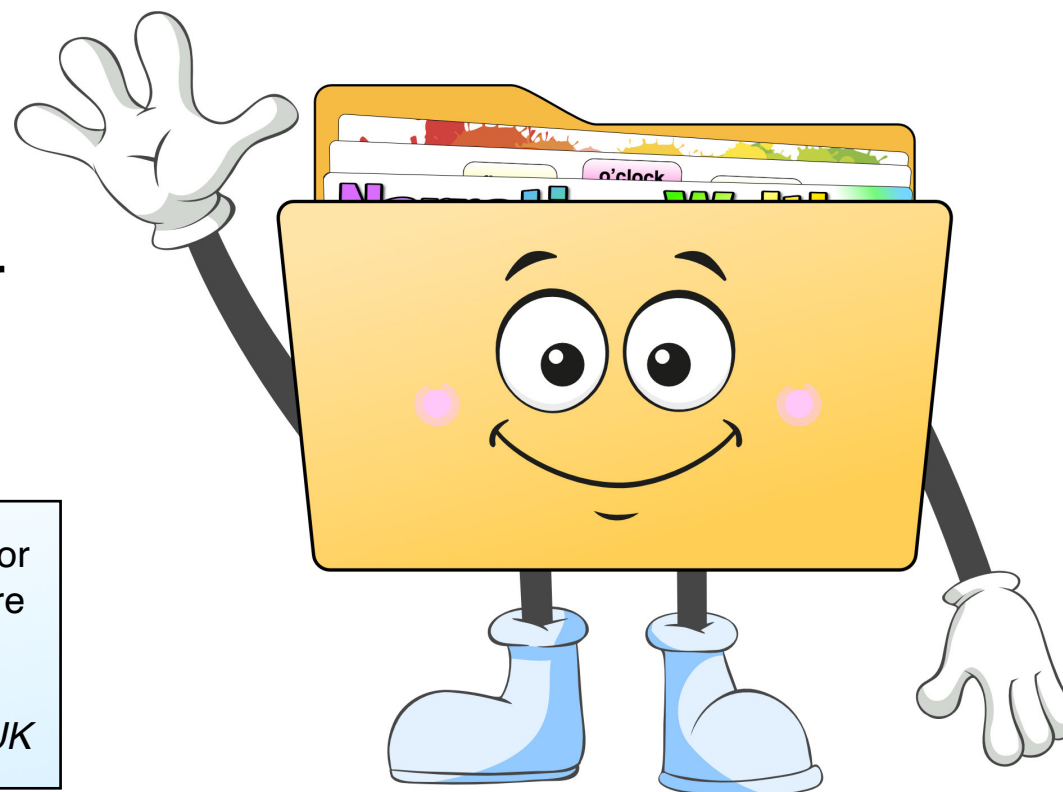
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Volcanoes



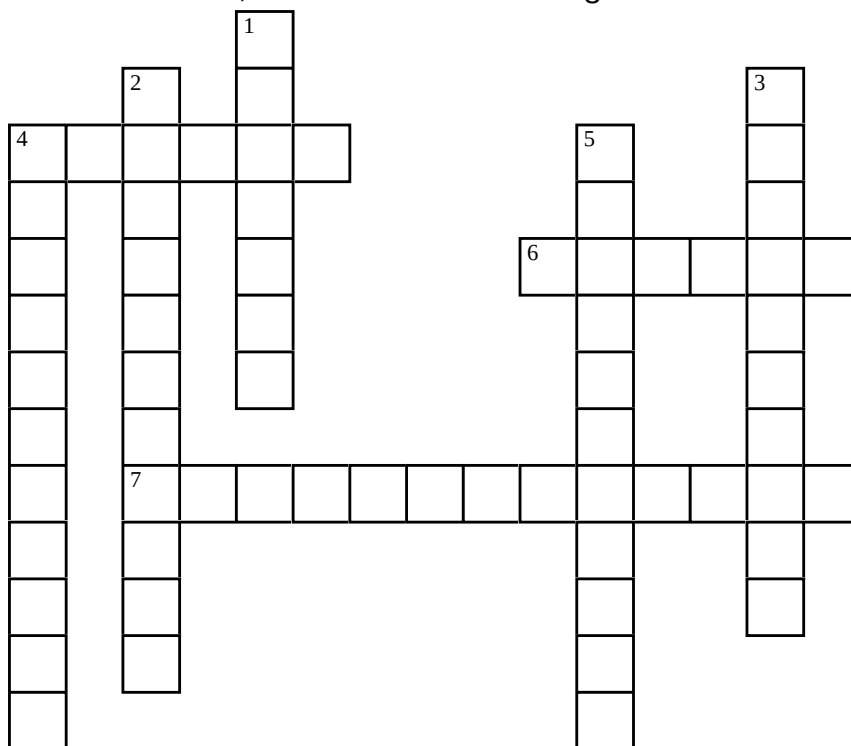
The word volcano comes from the name of the Roman god of fire (Vulcan). The Ancient Romans believed that the smoking crater on the island of Vulcano, in the Mediterranean Sea, was the chimney of Vulcan's workshop. They thought that the hot rocks and dust were caused when Vulcan made weapons for the gods.

Volcanoes can be found on land, under the sea and beneath glaciers and ice sheets. They even occur on other planets! In fact, Olympus Mons on Mars is 26km (16 miles) high, three times the height of Mount Everest and the tallest mountain on any planet in our solar system.

When a volcano erupts, as well as the damage caused by the explosion, it can trigger other devastating events such as tsunamis, earthquakes, flooding and rock falls.

Hot lava flows quite slowly, but when it is mixed with hot gas and ash (in a pyroclastic flow), it can travel at hundreds of kilometres per hour. The hot ash and poisonous gases can also be deadly.

Today, about 350 million people in the world live within the danger range of an active volcano. Although that might sound like a terrible idea, the soil near to volcanoes is very rich and fertile due to the minerals in volcanic ash, so it is excellent farming land.



Across Clues

- 4) Who was the Roman god of fire? (6)
- 6) Which verb is used to describe a volcanic explosion? (6)
- 7) In which sea is the island of Vulcano located? (13)

Down Clues

- 1) What did the Romans think Vulcan was making for the gods? (7)
- 2) What is the name of the tallest mountain on any planet in our solar system? (11)
- 3) What ground-shaking event can be triggered by a volcano eruption? (10)
- 4) Which substance contains minerals that are good for farming? (11)
- 5) What is the name of the flow made from lava, hot gas and ash? (11)

Volcanoes Answers

ACROSS:

- 4. Vulcan
- 6. Erupts
- 7. Mediterranean

DOWN:

- 1. Weapons
- 2. Olympus Mons
- 3. Earthquake
- 4. Volcanic Ash
- 5. Pyroclastic