The Loudest Sound in MODERN HISTORY



What's the loudest noise you can imagine? Double it and that might be close to the noise that the volcanoes on Krakatoa island made when they erupted in 1883. Scientific experts say that it was the loudest sound in modern history. People heard it in Australia, more than 3,000 kilometers away.

Krakatoa is a volcanic island between the islands of Java and Sumatra in Indonesia. When the volcanoes erupted, the explosions created a tsunami with waves more than 40 meters high. In fact, the tsunami caused more deaths than the volcanoes themselves. It killed 34,000 people and destroyed 165 towns and villages.

A huge cloud of dust traveled around the planet. As a result, the temperature of the world dropped one degree. The weather didn't return to normal until five years later, in 1888. People who saw the event said that the cloud had caused fantastic colors in the sky.

Terrible eruptions continued for weeks. Any survivors on other islands who hadn't escaped yet found out that they couldn't escape. They watched the explosions from a distance and organized festivals to celebrate the volcano. What had caused the eruptions? They didn't know. They also didn't know that the eruptions were so serious.

The Krakatoa volcano didn't erupt again until 1927. This eruption created a new island at the same location. There were more eruptions between 2009 and 2012, but they weren't dangerous.

Today, Indonesia has 130 active volcanoes – more than any other country in the world. So a new eruption is possible at any time!

Reading: A magazine article

1. **Look at the title and the picture. What do you think the article is about?**

2. **Read and listen to the article. What was the loudest sound in history?**

3. **Read the article again. Are the sentences true (*T*) or false (*F*)?**
   1. The volcanoes on Krakatoa island erupted in 1883. ___
   2. More people died because of the tsunami than the volcanic eruptions. ___
   3. After the volcanic eruptions, the weather quickly returned to normal. ___
   4. People living on nearby islands knew exactly what caused the eruptions. ___
   5. Krakatoa had several dangerous eruptions between 2009 and 2012. ___
   6. No other countries have as many volcanoes as Indonesia. ___

4. YOUR TURN **Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions.**
   1. Why do you think there were climatic differences for five years after the volcano?
   2. Are there any areas with volcanoes in or near your country? Where are they? Are they still active?
   3. Have you heard about any recent volcanic eruptions or tsunamis? What do you remember about them?

DID YOU KNOW...?

There are over 500 active volcanoes in the world. A large horseshoe-shaped area around the Pacific Ocean is called the "Ring of Fire." Over half the world's active volcanoes can be found there.

LIVEWORKSHEETS