

Yellowstone Park

Introduction

This lesson is about Yellowstone Park in the United States, a huge national park which is also the site of an inactive supervolcano.

You will start by discussing and learning a little more about the park, and learn some useful words to talk about it. You will then listen to a longer audio text about volcanic activity

Task 1- Warm Up

Work with another student or a friend.

Look at the photos of Yellowstone National Park, in the United States.

What do the pictures tell you about the park?

Check the meaning of the words in the box, and use them to help you.

scalding jets of water		steam	bubbling mud
wilderness	geyser	wildlife	volcano



Task 2 - Vocabulary

Match the words and definitions.

No longer active.

When a solid is heated until it becomes liquid.

The natural heat of rock deep in the ground.

Not active now, but able to become active in the future.

Throw out burning rocks and ash

The outside or top layer of something

Heat something to the point where it forms bubbles.

Move suddenly or quickly in one direction.

molten

geothermal

erupt

surface

boil

shoot

extinct

dormant

Now use the words from the task above to complete the text.

Yellowstone National Park is one of the most unusual places in the world. The park sits on a lake of liquid rock that lies about six kilometres beneath the . Experts say this lake is under huge amounts of pressure. The pressure and heat cause scalding jets of water to out of the ground, lakes to steam and sizzle, and mud to bubble and .

An ancient, volcano created the untamed wilderness of Yellowstone and its features. The volcano that formed Yellowstone has been inactive for hundreds of thousands of years. However, it is not and some experts predict that it could violently at some point in the future.

Listen to check your ideas.

Task 3 - Listening (Gist)

Listen to the rest of the recording and decide if the following statements are True (T) or False (F)

1. The Yellowstone volcano has erupted more than once. T / F
2. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Agency) was unable to find the caldera (a giant circular hole left in the ground) at Yellowstone. T / F
3. Rock from the Yellowstone volcano has been found in three different American states. T / F

Task 4 – Listening (IELTS style task)

Listen to the second part of the recording again. Complete the following notes. Write NO MORE THAN ONE WORD OR A NUMBER for each answer.

THE YELLOWSTONE VOLCANO

Known as a supervolcano because of its size.

Last erupted between ¹ and 640,000 years ago - probably three times. There is no record in history of any eruptions as ² as these.

Most of North America covered in ash, which affected the weather by blocking the ³ reaching Earth.

Experts couldn't find caldera until recently when they saw photos NASA had taken from ⁴ . They found that the caldera is huge, about 70k long and 30k wide, and that it takes up almost ⁵ of the total area of the park.

In fact there is not just one caldera, but as many as 15 to ⁶ smaller ones, formed over the last 16 million years.

Look at the diagram below. Pair up the words and phrases with labels 1-6.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

hot spot

solid rock

freshwater

magma chamber

rising molten magma

salt water

