

# What The Past Tells Us

## Overview - Chapter 1

Living with a **VOLCANO** in Your Backyard  
**MOUNT RAINIER**



Cascade Range volcanoes award us with some of the most superb panoramas to be found between southern British Columbia and northern California. While the grandeur of these thirteen major volcanic centers inspires us, most people remain unfamiliar with volcano related histories and hazards. Why should your students become interested? With virtual certainty, many of these volcanoes will erupt again. This we know because of the volcanoes' location on an active subduction zone; their active geothermal and earthquake systems; and the frequency and recentness of eruptions.

Chapter One activities set the stage for investigation of the Cascade volcanoes, with emphasis on Mount Rainier. The activities address the where, when and how questions that your students are certain to ask. Other Chapter One activities examine the human-volcano interface as viewed through historic and cultural lenses. **Eruption!** is a pre-unit assessment of knowledge and perception. Students put on their history glasses and read an eyewitness account of the 79 A.D. eruption of Mount Vesuvius, then write a journal entry as though they were watching a volcano erupt. Revisit this activity at the end of your unit to assess

gained knowledge and potential changes in perceptions. Native American oral traditions, kept alive by oral communication for centuries, provide amazingly detailed descriptions—and some metaphorical accounts—of geological events. Find some of these descriptions in **Fire, Flood, and Fury**. In **Nineteenth-Century Newspaper Accounts of an Eruption at Mount Rainier**, students read historical newspaper accounts of the 1894-95 steam and ash eruptions of Mount Rainier. **Cascade Volcano Timeline** places the eruptive histories of Cascade volcanoes in the larger context of American and geological history, then sets it in the more personal context of one hypothetical family's history. Students research information and construct a mobile in **Volcano Hall of Fame** and **A String of Volcanoes**.

**Surrounded by Volcanoes** addresses plate tectonics and the Ring of Fire. Students role-play minerals within cooling magma in **Magma Mash**, and then take an imaginary trip inside a volcano in **Riding the Magma Elevator**. In **Soda Bottle Volcano**, they learn about the role of gases and create their own simulated volcanic eruptions.

### **Make your message clear:**

Cascade volcanoes are part of the fabric of the Pacific Northwest. Expect future eruptions at many of these volcanoes. Chapter One activities provide a solid background for activities in chapters two and three, which address volcanic processes, hazards, and preparations for community safety.

What The Past Tells Us

?

Chapter 1