

WHY DO PEOPLE LIVE NEAR VOLCANOES?



Eyjafjallajökull

In Iceland, geothermal energy helps to generate 25% of the countries electricity.

Geothermal energy is renewable, meaning it is better for our planet. However in 2010, a volcano (Eyjafjallajökull) erupted causing lots of problems for the people of Iceland and for people around the world. The eruption showed the dangers of living near volcanoes.

So, do the dangers outweigh the benefits of tourism and renewable energy?



Key Words

Mount Nyiragongo

Eyjafjallajökull

active

eruption

dormant

geothermal

renewable

tourism

Europe

Africa

Iceland

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Mount Nyiragongo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the people living in the city of Goma rely on the volcano (Mount Nyiragongo) for tourism and some of their farming. We will look at how the people of a less developed country cope with living near an active volcano. We will explore whether it is always a choice to live near a volcano or whether this is their only option.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is within the continent of Africa. Can you name any other continents?



1

Iceland is dotted with volcanoes, several of which have erupted in recent years.

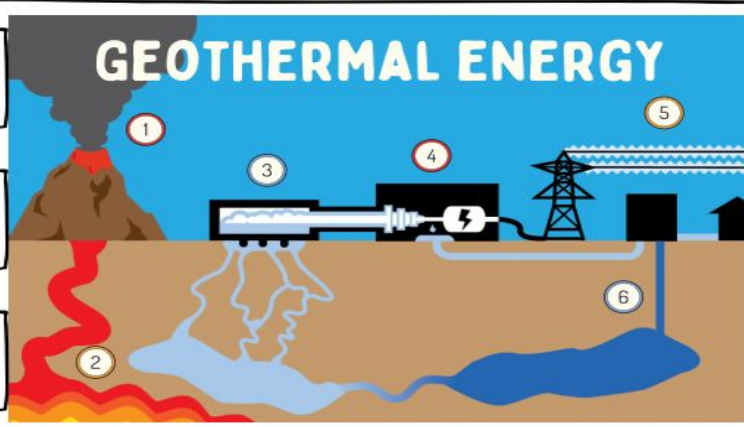
2

Magma near these volcanoes heats water to above 100°C.

3

The boiling water gets pumped up to the surface and used as steam.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY



4

The steam goes through a turbine, which powers a generator.

5

Electricity from the generator is sent to power homes in Reykjavik.

6

A cooling tower sends some water to town and some back underground.

ADVANTAGES OF LIVING NEAR A VOLCANO

Volcanic rock and ash provide fertile land which results in a higher crop yield for farmers.

Tourists are attracted to the volcano, which increases money to the local economy.

Geothermal energy can be harnessed, which provides cheaper electricity for locals.

Minerals are contained in lava, e.g. diamonds – these can be mined to make money

DISADVANTAGES OF LIVING NEAR A VOLCANO

People who live close to active volcanoes risk losing their lives when eruptions occur.

Even if people were to evacuate, their homes and businesses could still be destroyed.

The crop fields around the bank could burn and people may starve.

Dangerous gases may cause health problems.

