

What's happening in the news this week?



Raul Moreno/SOPA Images/Shutterstock

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

4th - 10th December 2023



What is it like to live through an uncertain time?



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Let's look at this week's story

Scientists monitoring a volcano in Iceland have said an eruption could happen. The Fagradalsfjall volcano previously erupted two years ago, in 2021 - the first time in over 800 years. It is now thought that the volcano is the cause of a series of earthquakes, which started this October. An underground river of magma led to the evacuation of 4,000 people from the town of Grindavik and Iceland has declared a state of emergency. People who live there have since been allowed to return just to collect belongings, with the likelihood of eruptions remaining high.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information found below, which explains more about the volcano in Iceland and how it has affected people there.

What is happening in Iceland?

The Fagradalsfjall volcano in Iceland has been causing a series of earthquakes and an underground river of magma was discovered in October, leading Iceland to declare a state of emergency.

It is possible that the volcano will erupt, impacting the neighbouring settlement of Grindavik.

How have people prepared for an eruption?

Grindavik, a town in Iceland with about 4,000 inhabitants, is roughly 2 miles from where the earthquake activity has been recorded. It has now been evacuated, ahead of the possible eruption, to ensure people are kept safe. Residents were allowed back to their homes to collect belongings but people have been told to leave once again as the likelihood of eruptions is 'remaining high', according to the Icelandic Meteorological office.

Dr Bill McGuire, professor emeritus of Geophysical & Climate Hazards, UCL, said: "Grindavik is very close to the position of the new fracture, and its survival is far from assured."



Cracks emerge on a road due to volcanic activity near a police station, in Grindavik, Iceland. **Source:** RUV/Ragnar Visage.

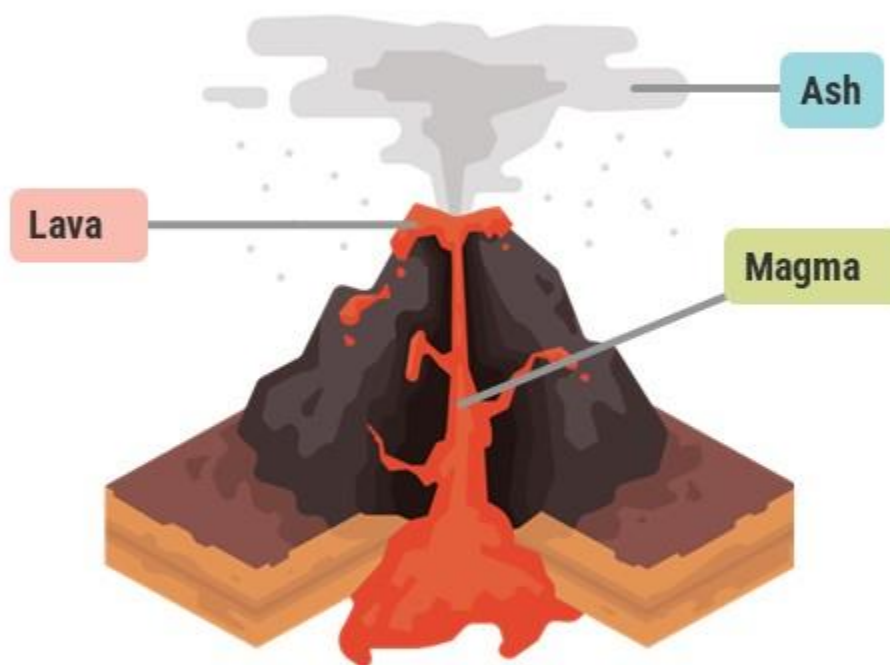
Talk about how the people living there may be feeling.



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about volcanoes.

A volcano is an opening of the Earth's crust (the outside layer). It can allow magma, hot ash and gas to escape.

Volcanoes can look like hills or small mountains.



Ash – tiny bits of rock, minerals and glass.

Lava – the name for magma when it reaches the Earth's surface.

Magma – rock that is so hot it has turned into a liquid.

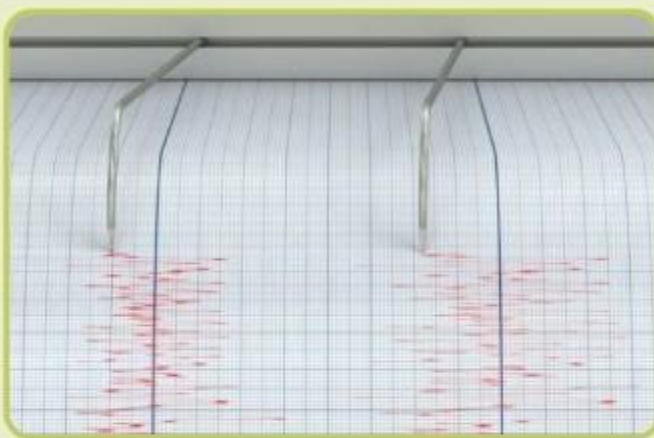
Is there anything else you would like to find out about volcanoes?



Look at the resource below, which shares some of the technology used to predict natural disasters.

Seismometer

A seismometer detects seismic waves (shockwaves) from the ground caused by earthquakes. Measuring earthquakes occurring near a volcano can help scientists predict when it might erupt.



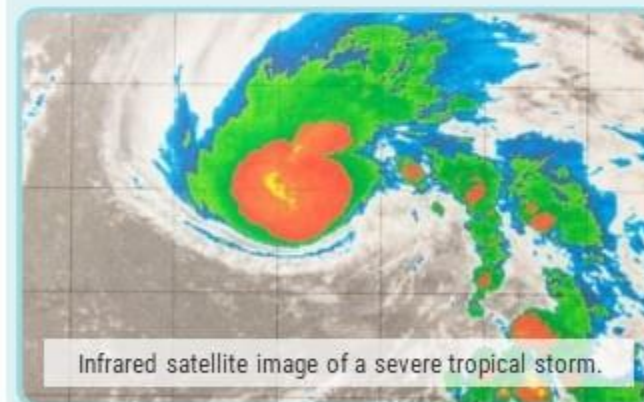
Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites

GPS satellites are used to detect and track extreme weather events such as floods, hurricanes, strong winds, and drought. Meteorologists can monitor the progress of these events and provide warnings to emergency services and people living in areas that may be affected.



Tiltmeters

A tiltmeter is a highly sensitive instrument used to measure the slope or tilt of the ground. They can be used for things such as monitoring volcanoes or the small movements of potential landslides.



Infrared satellite image of a severe tropical storm.

**Can you think of any other technology that is used to predict natural disasters?
How valuable do you think these technologies are?**



What is it like to live through an uncertain time?



Raul Moreno/SOPA Images/Shutterstock

Reflection



Predicting a volcanic eruption, which can cause huge devastation to its surrounding area, is hard. Like many unpredictable situations that can make life difficult, a lot of resilience and planning ahead can help to ensure safety and a positive outcome.





Rule of Law

Sometimes rules, such as not allowing people to stay in their homes, may be introduced in response to an event. They are put in place to help protect people and keep them safe.

Protected Characteristics



The Fagradalsfjall volcano in Iceland has affected the lives of Icelandic people living there. We should never be treated unfairly because of our colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnicity or national origins.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
and Belief



UN Rights of a Child



Natural disasters can cause harm to people – their possessions, homes and lives. We have the right to get help if we have been hurt so we can get back our health and dignity.



Useful vocabulary



Devastation

Great destruction or damage.

Predicting a volcanic eruption, which can cause huge **devastation** to its surrounding area, is hard.

Eruption

When lava, steam and ash **explode/burst** from a volcano.

Scientists monitoring a volcano in Iceland have said an **eruption** could happen.

Evacuation

Moving people from a dangerous place to somewhere safe.

An underground river of magma led to the **evacuation** of 4,000 people from the town of Grindavik and Iceland has declared a state of emergency.

Inhabitants

The people that live in a particular place.

Grindavik, a town in Iceland with about 4,000 **inhabitants**, is roughly 2 miles from where the earthquake activity has been recorded.

Magma

Hot liquid rock found just below the surface of the Earth.

The Fagradalsfjall volcano in Iceland has been causing a series of earthquakes and an underground river of **magma** was discovered in October.

Unpredictable

Likely to change suddenly and without reason.

Like many **unpredictable** situations that can make life difficult, a lot of resilience and planning ahead can help to ensure safety and a positive outcome.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Collective worship



Bible Link: Deuteronomy 31:8

Christian Value: Faith

Theme: You're never alone



Pupil involvement

You will need some mini hurdles and a blindfold.

Set out some mini hurdles, spaced out across the front of your hall/classroom. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front and walk the obstacle course – blindfolded! (You may need to offer some guidance to ensure they do not trip or fall). Repeat the activity with a friend, who can hold their hand, talk to them and guide them over the hurdles.

Explain that this journey across the hall/classroom, could represent your journey through life. Sometimes, we face more tricky parts (the hurdles). Facing these difficult times with someone listening, holding your hand and being there for you, can help make them easier to get through.

Pupil talk

- What do you think it takes to overcome difficult times?
- Who helps and supports you when you are finding things difficult?
- Have you ever helped someone facing a difficult time? How did you help?

Think

Scientists monitoring a volcano in Iceland have said an eruption could happen. The Fagradalsfjall volcano previously erupted two years ago, in 2021 - the first time in over 800 years. It is now thought that the volcano is the cause of a series of earthquakes, which started this October. An underground river of magma led to the evacuation of 4,000 people from the town of Grindavík and Iceland has declared a state of emergency. People who live there have since been allowed to return just to collect belongings, with the likelihood of eruptions remaining high.

Throughout our lives, we may experience difficult times and know or hear of others who are facing difficulties. God never leaves us; he is always with us. He isn't there to stop bad things from happening, but he is there to help us through. Share the poem by Mary Stevenson, 'Footprints in the sand'.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
When I feel alone, help me remember you will never leave me,
Help me to be there for others when they face difficulties,
Thank you for giving me strength, courage and your love,
Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Have you ever found something difficult, perhaps something in school or when learning a new skill? How did you feel?
- Make a list of different things you could do when you find something difficult e.g., ask someone for help, draw a picture, write down how you feel, have a break.

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Discuss ways you can help friends, family and people you know who might be facing difficult times.
- Have you ever helped someone you don't know get through a difficult time? Perhaps you helped raise awareness, fundraised or campaigned?
- Do you think people always want to be helped when facing difficulties? Explain your thoughts.

Worship song

Give me oil in my lamp



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God

Picture News



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- Look at this week's poster and share what you think could be happening.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which explains more about the volcano in Iceland and how it has affected the people there. Talk about how you think they might be feeling.
- Share any knowledge you have about volcanoes.
- What do you know about Iceland? Is it somewhere you would like to visit?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows the area in Iceland where the volcano is. Do you think it would be difficult living in an area like that?
- Can you think of a difficult or uncertain period that you have experienced? What was hard about it and what helped you get through that time?

Reflection

Predicting a volcanic eruption, which can cause huge devastation to its surrounding area, is hard. Like many unpredictable situations that can make life difficult, a lot of resilience and planning ahead can help to ensure safety and a positive outcome.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is a volcano?



- Share what you already know about volcanoes. Explain that there are no active volcanoes in the UK today, which means there are no volcanoes that will erupt. What do you think erupt means?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about volcanoes. Is there anything else you would like to find out about them?
- Focus on the technical words such as magma, lava, ash, and Earth's crust. Have you heard any of these words before? Can you explain to someone what you think each of them is?
- Using one or more of the volcano pictures on resource 1, make a collection of vocabulary to describe a volcano. Think about the colours, shapes, patterns you can see.
- Around 50-70 volcanoes around the world erupt each year. Some of these active volcanoes are located in Europe. Can you locate Europe on a world map? Can you locate the UK, which is part of Europe? Italy, Portugal, Iceland, Romania and Norway all have active volcanoes. Can you locate any of these countries?
- People living near the volcano in Iceland have been evacuated. Do you know what this means? What might it be like to have to leave your home quickly because of an emergency? Have you ever experienced this?

Reflection

There are many volcanoes across the world. Some of them are active, which means they can erupt. It is important to consider there are people living in our world whose lives can be affected by volcanoes.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How has technology helped us to predict natural disasters?



- A natural disaster is an event in nature that is often harmful and dangerous. Make a list of natural disasters that occur across the world e.g., floods, wildfires, blizzards, heatwaves, sinkholes. Have you ever experienced a natural disaster?
- Some parts of the world are more prone to certain natural disasters than others, which often links to a place's geography.
- Look at resource 2, which shares some of the technology used to predict natural disasters. Can you think of any other technology that is used to predict natural disasters? How valuable do you think these technologies are?
- Discuss the importance of being able to predict a natural disaster. It can help to save lives and property. Who is responsible for this?
- In the UK, weather warnings are issued in advance of potentially hazardous events such as storms and heavy rain that can lead to flooding. The weather warnings are given a colour depending on the impact they may have and how likely they are to occur. Do you know what these colours are and what they mean? Has your local area ever received one of these warnings?
- Sadly, not all natural disasters can be predicted. Do you think as technology develops in the future this may change? Why?

Reflection

Using technology to detect, measure and track events that may lead to a natural disaster can help to save lives. People who operate, analyse and respond to the information play a valuable part in this too.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Read and research to find out more about volcanoes.

- What is a volcano?
- What are composite and shield volcanoes?
- What is magma, ash, lava?
- What is an active, dormant and extinct volcano?
- What happens during a volcanic eruption?

Present your research in a way that helps you remember the information such as a poster, fact file, rap or video!

Option 2

Look at the table below:

- Can you locate the countries on a world map?
- Where is the tallest/shortest volcano located?
- Can you order the volcanoes from shortest to tallest?
- Which heights are odd/even numbers?
- Can you say each height? Can you write it in words?
- Which heights are divisible by 5, 4 or 3? Explain how you know.

Volcano	Country	Height (m)
Mount Etna	Italy	3329
Fagradalsfjall	Iceland	385
Mauna Loa	Hawaii	4169
Bromo	Indonesia	2329
Kikai	Japan	704



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

A volcano erupts. When it erupts, lava suddenly bursts from it. We can sometimes use the word erupt to describe how we feel when we want to suddenly burst.

- Have you ever felt this way?
- What made you feel this way?
- What happened to make you feel this way?
- What emotion caused it? Did you want to burst with excitement or frustration?
- How did you manage this 'eruption'?
- How might you manage it if you feel this way again?

Option 2

Design and make a volcano model! You can internet search for inspiration or use the images below. Think about:

- What materials will you use? Card, plasticine, playdough, tissue paper?
- How will you shape your volcano?
- What colour will it be?
- Will it be erupting?
- What equipment will you need e.g., scissors, paintbrush, glue?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-67387827

This week's useful video

Iceland Volcano

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fraY3CjSq1k

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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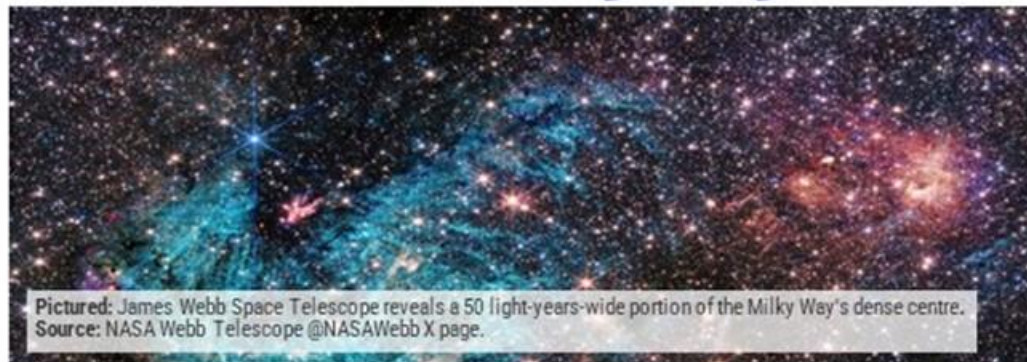
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Heart of the Milky Way



Pictured: James Webb Space Telescope reveals a 50 light-years-wide portion of the Milky Way's dense centre. **Source:** NASA Webb Telescope @NASAWebb X page.

A new image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope reveals never-before-seen features at the centre of the Milky Way. The brightly coloured image shows the heart of the Milky Way in 'unprecedented detail'. NASA states that within the captured images of stars is Sagittarius C, 'a star-forming region about 300 light-years away from the supermassive black hole at the Milky Way's centre.' The telescope will be able to study each star individually as the galactic centre is only 25,000 light years away from Earth. 'There's never been any infrared data on this region with the level of resolution and sensitivity we get with

Webb, so we are seeing lots of features here for the first time. Webb reveals an incredible amount of detail, allowing us to study star formation in this sort of environment in a way that wasn't possible previously,' said the team's principal investigator Samuel Crowe, from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Samuel added, 'The image from Webb is stunning, and the science we will get from it is even better. Massive stars are factories that produce heavy elements in their nuclear cores, so understanding them better is like learning the origin story of much of the universe.'

Do you enjoy looking at stars in the sky?

'The Knit Wits'

Every Friday at Edgemere senior living home in Texas, USA, a group called 'The Knit Wits' get together around a large table to hand-knit hats and toys for children who are in need. The group have been creating the cosy items to send to charities operating worldwide for over twenty years – from their hometown to abroad, from local hospitals to war zones. During the last two decades, the club has donated thousands of items to bring comfort and warmth to others. The group's current project, in association with Children's Health in Dallas, is to knit homemade caps, with a festive theme, for infants facing heart problems. Describing the caps, Betsy Beall, who is a specialist at the hospital where the caps are being sent, said, 'They have become a colourful symbol of hope and joy for the centre's littlest patients and their families.' Marianne Mead, who joined



Pictured: Knitting together. **Source:** Canva.

'The Knit Wits' in her 80s and is still knitting now at the grand age of 102, credits the activity with keeping her creative, busy and giving her something good to think about! Staff working at Edgemere believe that the group's achievements deserve to be celebrated and invited 'The Knit Wits' to a special meal in their honour (pictured left). The executive director of their Edgemere home said, 'They've proven that a simple act of kindness can make such a difference in the lives of those facing challenging circumstances.'

Do you know how to knit? Do you know anyone who enjoys knitting? Do you think it is an important skill?



Pictured: The Knit Wits at Edgemere enjoying a celebratory meal. **Source:** Edgemere Senior Living Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Emu on the loose in Loose!

Rodney the Emu, a family pet from Loose in Kent, was captured on doorbell camera footage after he escaped from his home. Once captured by police, the six-month-old flightless bird was safely returned to his family, who were delighted to have him back at home. Sarah Stribbling-Williams, the bird's keeper said, 'I wasn't aware that he'd gone missing. I thought he was in his stable, and then a man came down and said, 'have you lost your emu?' He'd gone down the footpath and a road away in a neighbour's front garden. We have had him since he was a four-day-old chick. He's a very friendly and tame member of the family. He often comes in our house and if outside he will come and knock on the kitchen window for some treats. He spends his time with our seven children along with our other animals (dogs, cats,

horses, chickens) and can often be found running round our garden with the dogs.' Rodney was found in a residential street close to its home by pensioner Maureen Roberts, who received quite a shock when a video doorbell notification alerted her to an Emu at her front door! Maureen said, 'I didn't know the emu was on the loose in my garden until I saw the footage on my phone. I just didn't believe it until I heard the tapping noise outside on the door.' A neighbour contacted Maureen to let her know, but she believed they were playing a prank on her, until she checked her phone. Maureen added, 'I thought she was winding me up and I laughed it off. But it turned out she wasn't joking.'

How would you feel if there was a friendly Emu in your garden?



Pictured: Kent Police's Tactical teams helping to return Rodney the emu to his home.
Source: Kent Police Tactical Operations @KPTacOps X page.

Last week's topic:

How can we show compassion to others?



Supporting and asking what you can do to help.

Alix

We should treat everyone equally and how you want to be treated.

Sapphire

We can show compassion by trying to understand someone's problem. We should help when they are hurt and comfort them so they don't feel bad.

Alicja

Sharing your things.

Graeme

Asking questions like are you ok?

Preyk

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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TAKEHOME



What is it like to live through an uncertain time?



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- Share any prior knowledge you have about volcanoes.
- How do you imagine the people of Grindavik feel about having to leave their homes, not knowing when they will be able to go back?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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