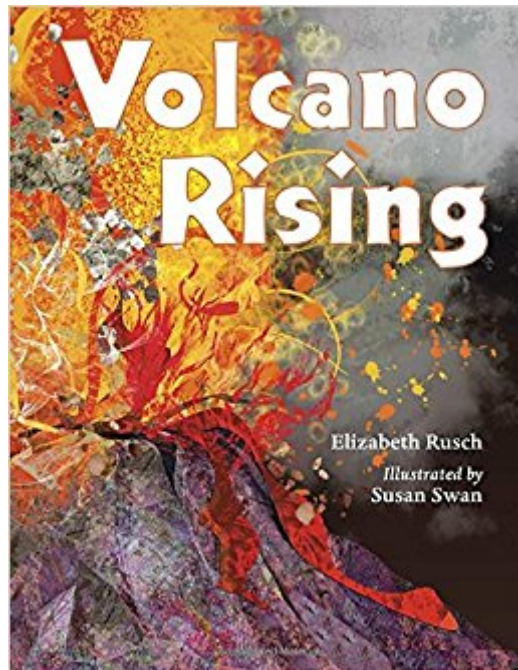




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Volcano Rising



Synopsis

Volcanoes are a scary, catastrophic phenomenon that creates mass destruction as far as its deadly lava can reach, right? Not quite . . . Elizabeth Rusch explores volcanoes in their entirety, explaining how they *are* not all as bad as they *are* made out to be. Using examples of real volcanoes from around the world, Rusch explains how some volcanoes create new land, mountains, and islands where none existed before, and how the ash helps farmers fertilize their fields. Simple, straight-forward prose provides readers with the basics, while a secondary layer of text delves deeper into the science of volcanoes. Susan Swan's bright and explosive mixed-media illustrations perfectly complement the subject matter—they depict volcanoes in all their destructive and creative glory. Complete with a glossary and list of further resources, *VOLCANO RISING* is a unique look at a fierce, yet valuable, scientific process.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1090L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-4—Rusch offers a twin-sided look at the power of volcanoes—their capability for destruction, and, surprisingly, of creation. Her informative text continues the split in personality with, on one side, an easy sentence or two dramatically describing eruptions with a heavily accented “POW!” or “SPURT.” On the other is a longer, more

complex paragraph giving further data for older readers or for teachers and homeschooling parents. Included are such topics as the Yellowstone supervolcano, the emergence of undersea volcanoes, and the creation of Parícutín in a Mexican cornfield. All of this information is placed on a backdrop of Swan's dramatic artwork, a combination of hand-painted papers, digital paintings, and Photoshop scans that include a puffin taking off from the sea near Surtsey and Kilauea's pahoehoe lava flowing violently into the cold Pacific waters. Pair this book with Lisa Westberg Peters's *Volcano Wakes Up!* (Holt, 2010) for a lava-full celebration of vulcanology.

Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY
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In Rusch's third book on volcanoes, she is joined by Swan, and the two have created an eye-popping riot of action, sound, color, and information to convey the energy and impact of volcanoes. Portions of the text are written for younger readers, while the more detailed, thorough explanatory passages (in a slightly smaller font) are approachable for older readers or through adult assistance. Rusch describes both "creative" and "destructive" volcanoes, but spends more time explaining the creative ones and their environments. Swan's provocative found-objects-meet-digital-painting art is a wild, invigorating explosion (so to speak) of lines and colors. But it's not overwhelming; the labels of the lava, magma, and varied strata of volcanoes expand the understanding. A smart and visceral introduction to the topic and the pronunciation help within the text is nice, too. Grades 1-3. --J. B. Petty

Generally when I read about volcanoes the focus is on the incredible destructive force they manifest, but in this book, *Volcano Rising*, the focus is on what the author calls creative eruptions. She uses this term to refer to slower erupting volcanoes that add land or slowly change the landscape over time. The information provided here is fascinating for young and old alike. I especially appreciated the longer sections that provide specific information about individual volcanoes and their unique characteristics. I also found the account of how people have tried to stop creative eruptions but have been unable to do so. For this kind of nonfiction book, I normally prefer photographs, but the illustrations in this book are so well done that it doesn't matter that they aren't photos. The illustrator does a fabulous job of showing the chaos that volcanoes cause and yet how amazingly beautiful they can be as well. The settings also vary a great deal. The reader travels from tropical islands to continents to undersea volcanoes giving a glimpse of the incredible variety that exists in terms of setting and volcanic characteristics. A beautiful book that would make a great

addition to any volcano loving young reader's library.

Lovely illustrations and excellent information. Large, shorter statements for the younger child with smaller, more advanced text for older children.

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