

Pele's Hair

What happened on November 27, 2022? Mauna Loa began to erupt. Mauna Lao is the world's largest active volcano. Until that day, it had been quiet for 38 years.

Mauna Lao is in Hawaii. It is far away from where people live. When it started to erupt, people did not have to worry about the lava burning their houses.

They did have to worry about something else. Pele's hair. Pele's hair is what Hawaiians call thin strands of cooled lava.

When lava bubbles burst and cool, they form glass strings. The strings can be a few feet long. They look like human hair.

Pele's hair blows around in the wind. It piles up near volcanoes. It forms hills that are many inches deep.

The Hawaiian Park Service warns people about Pele's hair. Because it is glass, it can cause cuts. It can also blow into people's eyes.

Pele's hair is named after the Hawaiian volcano goddess. She lives in the crater of a volcano called Kilauea. Stories warn about Pele's curse. They say that you should not take anything from nature away from the Hawaiian Islands. If you do, you will have many years of bad luck.



If you go to Hawaii while a volcano is erupting, beware of Pele's hair.
And if you take a rock as a souvenir, beware of Pele's curse!



This page has been intentionally left blank.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. What did people have to worry about when Mauna Loa started to erupt?
 - a. Lava burning their houses
 - b. The curse of the volcano goddess
 - c. Pele's hair
 - d. Tidal waves

2. According to Hawaiian stories, what causes Pele's curse?
 - a. Being cut by Pele's hair
 - b. Taking something from nature away from the islands
 - c. A volcano erupting
 - d. Lava bubbles bursting

3. Why do people call the cooled lava strands Pele's hair?
 - a. Because it looks like hair
 - b. Because Pele is the goddess of volcanoes
 - c. Because it can blow in people's eyes
 - d. An and B

4. At the beginning of the passage, it says that Mauna Loa "had been quiet for 38 years." What does that mean?
 - a. It had not erupted in 38 years
 - b. It had been erupting for 38 years
 - c. It was 38 years old
 - d. It erupted without making any noise

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

1. What did people have to worry about when Mauna Loa started to erupt?
 - a. Lava burning their houses
 - b. The curse of the volcano goddess
 - c. Pele's hair**
 - d. Tidal waves
2. According to Hawaiian stories, what causes Pele's curse?
 - a. Being cut by Pele's hair
 - b. Taking something from nature away from the islands**
 - c. A volcano erupting
 - d. Lava bubbles bursting
3. Why do people call the cooled lava strands Pele's hair?
 - a. Because it looks like hair
 - b. Because Pele is the goddess of volcanoes
 - c. Because it can blow in people's eyes
 - d. An and B**
4. At the beginning of the passage, it says that Mauna Loa "had been quiet for 38 years." What does that mean?
 - a. It had not erupted in 38 years**
 - b. It had been erupting for 38 years
 - c. It was 38 years old
 - d. It erupted without making any noise