

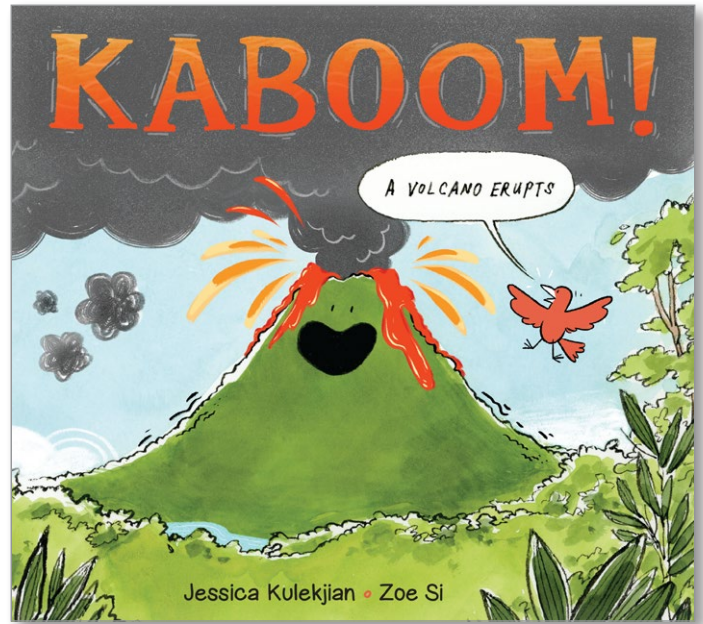
# KABOOM! • TEACHING GUIDE

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The story of a volcano's eruption, as it's never been told before! A perfect pick for budding volcanologists — or any child who can't resist a good *kaboom!*

Here's a step-by-step story of a volcanic eruption — told from the volcano's point of view! Readers meet the volcano as it placidly slumbers, which it's been doing for thousands of years. Then things begin to stir to life deep inside. First come the hisses, as hot magma moves into a chamber beneath the volcano. Then, steam, gas and ash start to gurgle and sputter out, followed by the magma and gases rising up. Finally, the volcano shouts, "I'm awake!" as lava, hot rocks and billows of ash erupt out of its vents with a giant *kaboom!*

In this lively informational picture book, Jessica Kulekjian uses a playful and spirited tone to introduce the thrilling natural phenomenon of an erupting volcano. The unique first-person narrative makes this a perfect read-aloud, giving listeners the opportunity to act out what's happening. The volcano's narration is augmented by the comments of a red bird who appears on every spread to provide the play-by-play and to introduce easily digestible volcanic facts and terms, from *magma chamber* and *tectonic plates* to *ash clouds*. The quirky, funny artwork by Pulitzer Prize-nominated cartoonist and illustrator Zoe Si uses cutaway illustrations for a look inside the volcano. The text has been vetted by volcano experts. Back matter includes a volcano's anatomy, phases and types, and sources for further learning. An excellent choice for earth science lessons on volcanoes, earth's crust, minerals, rocks and erosion.



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**JESSICA KULEKJIAN** spent her California childhood outdoors — climbing trees, swimming and riding bikes into orchards where she invented stories with friends

until the sun went down. As she grew, so did her love of writing, alongside a dream to become an author. Jessica went on to study creative writing and education in college and earned her MA in Teaching. Her favorite lessons to create include a picture book read-aloud for students of any age. Today, Jessica teaches second grade and writes in the early morning hours. Her passion for nature, free play and learning inspires all her stories. She is the author of several books for children, including *Hiders Seekers Finders Keepers* (Kids Can Press), *First Notes of Spring* (Bloomsbury) and *Before We Stood Tall* which was named an NCTE Notable Book in Poetry (Kids Can Press). Jessica lives with her family in the Central Valley of California.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**ZOE SI** is a cartoonist, illustrator and writer with a lifelong passion for laughing at her own jokes. She believes in the power of words, but also that wherever words fail, a cartoon can usually

succeed. Zoe practiced law for a number of years, and now spends her days contributing cartoons and articles to *The New Yorker*, working on a graphic novel and making children's books. In 2022, she was selected as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Illustrated Reporting and Commentary for editorial cartoons published in *The New Yorker*. Zoe lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband and a large, fluffy dog. In her spare time, she enjoys running around outside and petting other people's dogs.

## REVIEWS

"This is a book that begs to be read out loud ... a fun and effective introduction to volcanology that should perk up elementary STEAM collections." — *Booklist*

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## ABOUT THE GUIDE

This guide was created by Kari Allen, an educator with twenty years of education and classroom experience. All activities can and should be modified to best fit student needs. A sampling of Common Core standards is listed at the end of the guide. The standard connections are a sampling, and most activities can meet more than one grade level's needs. Visit Kari's website ([www.kariallenwrites.com](http://www.kariallenwrites.com)) for more information. All art from the guide was created by Zoe Si and has been used with her permission. Text excerpts are by Jessica Kulekjian. This guide is for use in classrooms and for educational purposes only.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### BEFORE READING

- What do you know about volcanoes? Brainstorm a list of facts, vocabulary you think you might encounter when reading and questions you have about volcanoes. **2.RI.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.**
- Discuss the title. How would you read the title? Why do you think the title starts with a sound? What genre do you think this book is? How come? Support your answer with examples from the text. **1.RL.5 Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.**
- What feelings do you get just by looking at the cover?

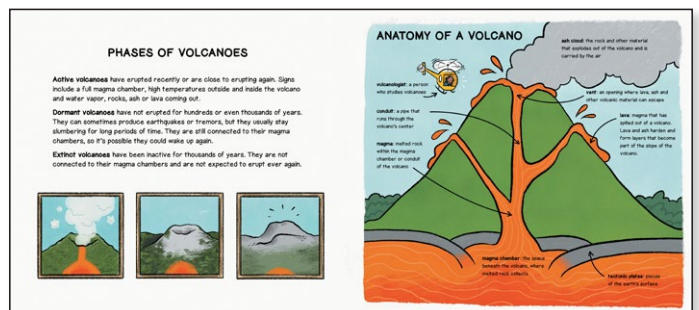
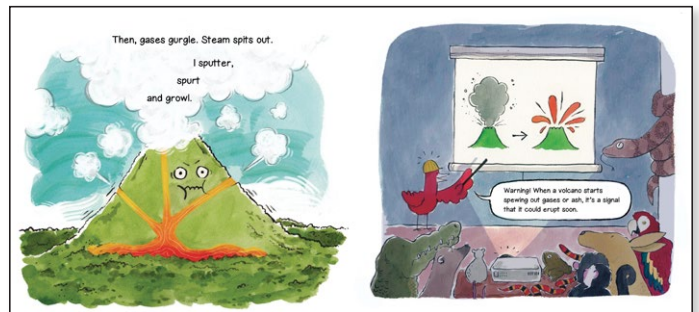
### WHILE READING

- Who is narrating this book? How do you know?
- How does the writer share facts and information about volcanoes? **1.RI.8 Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.**
- Have you ever felt like a volcano? How come and when? **1.SL.4 Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly. What role does the bird play in telling the story?**
- What do you notice about the information the bird shares? Look at the following page spreads when the volcano wakes up. The illustrations go across the gutter of the book and fills the page spread. What effect does that have on the story and your emotions while reading? **K.RL.7 With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).**



## CRAFT MOVES

- Talk about perspective and point of view. This book is told in the first person. What would change if the book was told through second person or third person? Who else could tell this story? How would the language change if the bird told the story? **2.RL.6 Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.**
- Pick a natural object and write as if you were that object. What would it be like to be a tree? Or a river? Or a rock? Examine how author Jessica Kulekjian wrote from the perspective a volcano. Try it out yourself! (See printable.)
- Where do you hear alliteration in the text? Alliteration is when words near or next to each other have the same beginning sounds. Try out alliteration in your own writing! **2.RL.4 Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.**
- Let's talk about back matter and side bar information! Back matter comes at the end of the book and gives us more information. The sidebars are when the bird talks to the reader. How are the back matter and sidebars different from the rest of the text? Is the tone different? Is the style or voice different? How so? Why do you think the author chose to include different styles in the book? **1.RI.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.**





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## WRITING PROMPTS

- Sometimes I feel like a volcano when ...
- I erupt like a volcano when ...
- Research and write about a volcano. Where is your volcano? What kind of volcano is it? How do people and the volcano interact and live together?

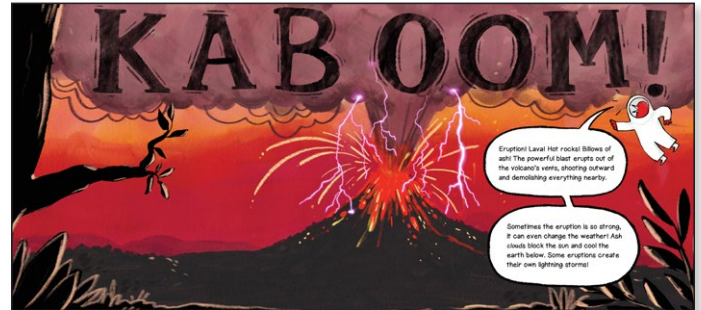
**1.W.5** With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

**2.W.8** Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

**1.W.7** Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).

## SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Make a model of a volcano’s eruption cycle. You could use found or recycled materials, blocks, LEGOs or natural materials. Show your understanding through your build. **MS-ESS2-1 Develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth’s materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.** Extension: Take a picture of your model. Add labels digitally or print out the picture and write the labels.
- Make a volcanic reaction. (This could be an outside activity for cleaning up purposes.) Make your own *Kaboom!* Mix vinegar and baking soda, or Mentos and soda, to create an explosive reaction. (See printable.) **MS-ESS2-1 Develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth’s materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.**
- View a livestream of an active volcano. (There are some videos of the volcano on the island of Hawai’i.) What do you notice? What do you see? **2-ESS1-1 Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly.**



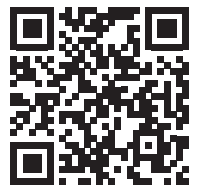
## SOCIAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

- Where are there volcanoes in the world? Pull out a map or a globe, and locate the places in the world where there are volcanoes. What do you notice? Are there any patterns? What are you wondering? **4-ESS2-2 Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth’s features.**

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Listen to the “Kaboom!” song by Tara Trudel. Draw along as you listen.
- Act out the eruption cycle with your body. Can you make up a dance or movements to go with the book?
- Brainstorm alternative titles for the book. How else could you describe the volcanic cycle? Make a list of synonyms for the word kaboom.
- Volcano Breath Exercise: Reach down into the earth and pull the magma up from your magma chamber as you breathe in. Then, as you breathe out, pretend that the lava is flowing out, out, out. Think about how you feel before and after doing the breath exercise.

Scan to listen to “Kaboom!”



## VOCABULARY

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| • chamber     | • sizzle     |
| • conduit     | • slopes     |
| • dormant     | • slumbering |
| • gurgle      | • spewing    |
| • reawakening | • sputter    |
| • settle      | • stirring   |

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Using the printable cards, act out the verbs used in the book.

**K.RL.4** Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

**1.RI.4** Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text.

# K-W-L CHART

Before reading fill out with words or pictures the *K* and the *W*.  
After reading, fill out the *L*.

**K**

What I Know:

**W**

What I Want to Know:

**L**

What I Did Learn:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw what happens during a volcano eruption cycle.

First

Second

Third

Fourth

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use your senses as you observe your volcanic reaction!

Record your observations with pictures and labels.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

My *KABOOM!*







Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw along to the “Kaboom!” song.



**tumble**

**sizzle**

**twist**

**gurgle**

**turn**

**slumbering**

**stirring**

**reawaken**