

Sisters reunited 30 years after Colombia avalanche

28th February, 2016



Two sisters in Colombia who were separated as children by an avalanche 30 years ago have been reunited. Jaqueline and Lorena Sanchez thought they had lost each other forever in 1985

when the Tolima volcano erupted near their town of Armero. The hot, molten lava from the volcano melted nearby glaciers and caused four massive mudslides. These killed more than 20,000 of Armero's 29,000 inhabitants. Jaqueline, 33, and Lorena, 39, never found each other in the chaos that followed the disaster. They each assumed the other was among the deceased. Armero was the second most deadly volcanic disaster of the 20th century. Only the 1902 eruption of Mount Pelee in the Caribbean was deadlier.

The two sisters were adopted by different families and never knew each other's fate. They have both spent much of the past few decades looking for each other. They were reunited when DNA tests they gave to an organization that helped victims of the avalanches matched. Lorena told reporters: "It was beautiful and sad because it has been 30 years since the tragedy happened that I've come to find out what happened to my sister. I have to catch up with 30 years of her life and she has to do the same with me." Jaqueline said: "I'm excited, nervous, everything because suddenly, you don't know if you are going to be rejected...I wonder if she will love me. It's difficult. It's difficult to explain this moment."

Sources: *BBC.com / Washington Post / Fox News*

Writing

No one should live near a volcano. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sisters / children / avalanche / volcano / glaciers / inhabitants / disaster / Caribbean / adopted / fate / decades / reunited / beautiful / tragedy / excited / nervous / difficult

True / False

- The sisters were separated when they were in their 30s. T / F
- The avalanche happened because a volcano erupted. T / F
- Around two-thirds of the town's people died in the tragedy. T / F
- The 20th century's most deadly volcanic disaster happened in 1902. T / F
- The two sisters were adopted by the same family. T / F
- The use of DNA tests helped reunite the two sisters. T / F
- One sister said she has 20 years of her sister's life to catch up with. T / F
- Another sister is not worried her other sister might reject her. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. separated | a. residents |
| 2. molten | b. huge |
| 3. massive | c. get up-to-date |
| 4. inhabitants | d. casualties |
| 5. deceased | e. parted |
| 6. fate | f. think about |
| 7. victims | g. apprehensive |
| 8. catch up | h. liquefied |
| 9. nervous | i. destiny |
| 10. wonder | j. dead |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Have you ever experienced a natural disaster?
- How would it feel to be separated for so long?
- Do you think they ever gave up hope?
- What do you know about volcanoes?
- How do you think the sisters felt when they knew they would be reunited?
- What should you do if you are near an erupting volcano?
- What advice do you have for the sisters?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Two sisters in Colombia who were | a. of the 20th century |
| 2. they had lost each | b. from the volcano |
| 3. The hot, molten lava | c. 30 years of her life |
| 4. 20,000 of Armero's 29,000 | d. few decades |
| 5. the second most deadly volcanic disaster | e. separated as children |
| 6. The two sisters were adopted | f. going to be rejected |
| 7. the past | g. tests |
| 8. DNA | h. other forever |
| 9. I have to catch up with | i. by different families |
| 10. you don't know if you are | j. inhabitants |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about DNA?
- What part did technology play in the sisters being reunited?
- How long would it take to catch up with 30 years of someone's life?
- What do you think the sisters will talk about?
- What should the sisters do together in the next few weeks?
- Should people who live near volcanoes move?
- Would you like to read more good news stories?
- What questions would you like to ask the sisters?

Spelling

- Two sisters in Colombia who were teradpesa
- melted nearby acgeirsl
- four msavsie mudslides
- among the sdeaedec
- the second most deadly volcanic rdseasti
- the 1902 ruopenit of Mount Pelee
- dtoadpe by different families
- the past few desaedc
- helped scvitmi of the avalanches
- since the rgdatye happened
- I'm excited, vrunoos, everything
- you are going to be ceretejd

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. a	5. j
6. i	7. d	8. c	9. g	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Family news

You think family news is the best news to catch up with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their news isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): movies, your town or neighbours.

Role B – Movie news

You think news of movies is the best news to catch up with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their news isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): family news, your town or neighbours.

Role C – News of your town

You think news of your town is the best news to catch up with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their news isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): movies, family news or neighbours.

Role D – News of neighbours

You think news of neighbours is the best news to catch up with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their news isn't so interesting. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): movies, your town or family news.

Speaking – Catch up

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to catch up on at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| • family news | • your own health |
| • movies | • love life |
| • neighbours | • friends |
| • jobs | • your town |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.