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**Level 5 – 2nd June 2025**

## **Greener trees may be sign a volcano will erupt**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-5.html>

For centuries, volcanologists have been predicting when volcanoes will erupt. Forecasting when a volcano might blow has been pretty unreliable. However, a study from NASA scientists and the Smithsonian Institution say they are a step closer to providing more accurate forecasts. They used images from space to detect changes in the colour of leaves near volcanoes. The study showed that an increase in carbon dioxide levels emitted by two active volcanoes in Costa Rica had an impact on the colour of foliage. Trees in the surrounding areas became greener.

Current methods of predicting volcanic explosions include checking seismic activity, changes in ground height, and carbon dioxide emissions. NASA said its new method of monitoring the colour of foliage from space could give better predictions. The science behind this is easy to understand. As magma moves upwards through Earth's crust, it releases carbon dioxide. Trees absorb this and their leaves become greener. The LiveScience website said: "These signs can help to protect communities against the worst effects of volcanic blasts, including lava flows...and toxic gas clouds."

Sources: <https://www.livescience.com/planet-earth/volcanos/the-closer-a-volcano-is-to-erupting-the-greener-the-trees-around-it-look-from-space>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/trees-may-be-able-to-warn-us-when-a-volcano-is-about-to-erupt>  
<https://scitechdaily.com/volcanoes-send-secret-signals-through-trees-and-nasa-satellites-can-see-them/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. predicting when               | a. surrounding areas       |
| 2. Forecasting when a volcano    | b. closer                  |
| 3. pretty                        | c. to detect changes       |
| 4. they are a step               | d. volcanoes will erupt    |
| 5. They used images from space   | e. foliage                 |
| 6. carbon dioxide levels emitted | f. unreliable              |
| 7. the colour of                 | g. by two active volcanoes |
| 8. Trees in the                  | h. might blow              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Current methods of predicting | a. of volcanic blasts    |
| 2. seismic                       | b. volcanic explosions   |
| 3. carbon dioxide                | c. crust                 |
| 4. As magma                      | d. emissions             |
| 5. through Earth's               | e. activity              |
| 6. Trees absorb this and their   | f. moves upwards         |
| 7. the worst effects             | g. flows                 |
| 8. lava                          | h. leaves become greener |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-5.html>

For centuries, volcanologists have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ volcanoes will erupt. Forecasting when a volcano might blow has (2) \_\_\_\_\_. However, a study from NASA scientists and the Smithsonian Institution say they are a step closer to providing (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They used images from space to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the colour of leaves near volcanoes. The study showed that an increase in carbon dioxide (5) \_\_\_\_\_ two active volcanoes in Costa Rica had an impact on the colour of foliage. Trees in (6) \_\_\_\_\_ became greener.

Current (7) \_\_\_\_\_ volcanic explosions include checking seismic activity, changes in ground height, and (8) \_\_\_\_\_. NASA said its new method of monitoring the colour of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ could give better predictions. The science behind this is easy to understand. As magma moves upwards (10) \_\_\_\_\_, it releases carbon dioxide. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and their leaves become greener. The LiveScience website said: "These signs can help to protect communities against the worst effects of volcanic blasts, (12) \_\_\_\_\_...and toxic gas clouds."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-5.html>

For centuries, volcanologists have been predicting when volcanoes will erupt. Forecasting when a volcano might blow has been pretty unreliable. However, a study from NASA scientists and the Smithsonian Institution says they are a step closer to providing more accurate forecasts. They used images from space to detect changes in the colour of leaves near volcanoes. The study showed that an increase in carbon dioxide levels emitted by two active volcanoes in Costa Rica had an impact on the colour of foliage. Trees in the surrounding areas became greener. Current methods of predicting volcanic explosions include checking seismic activity, changes in ground height, and carbon dioxide emissions. NASA said its new method of monitoring the colour of foliage from space could give better predictions. The science behind this is easy to understand. As magma moves upwards through Earth's crust, it releases carbon dioxide. Trees absorb this and their leaves become greener. The Live Science website said: "These signs can help to protect communities against the worst effects of volcanic blasts, including lava flows... and toxic gas clouds."

# VOLCANOES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about volcanoes in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250602-volcanoes-and-trees-5.html>

Write about **volcanoes** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]