

DEPARTMENT FOR CURRICULUM,
LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYABILITY
Educational Assessment Unit

Annual Examinations for Primary Schools 2024

Year 5

ENGLISH

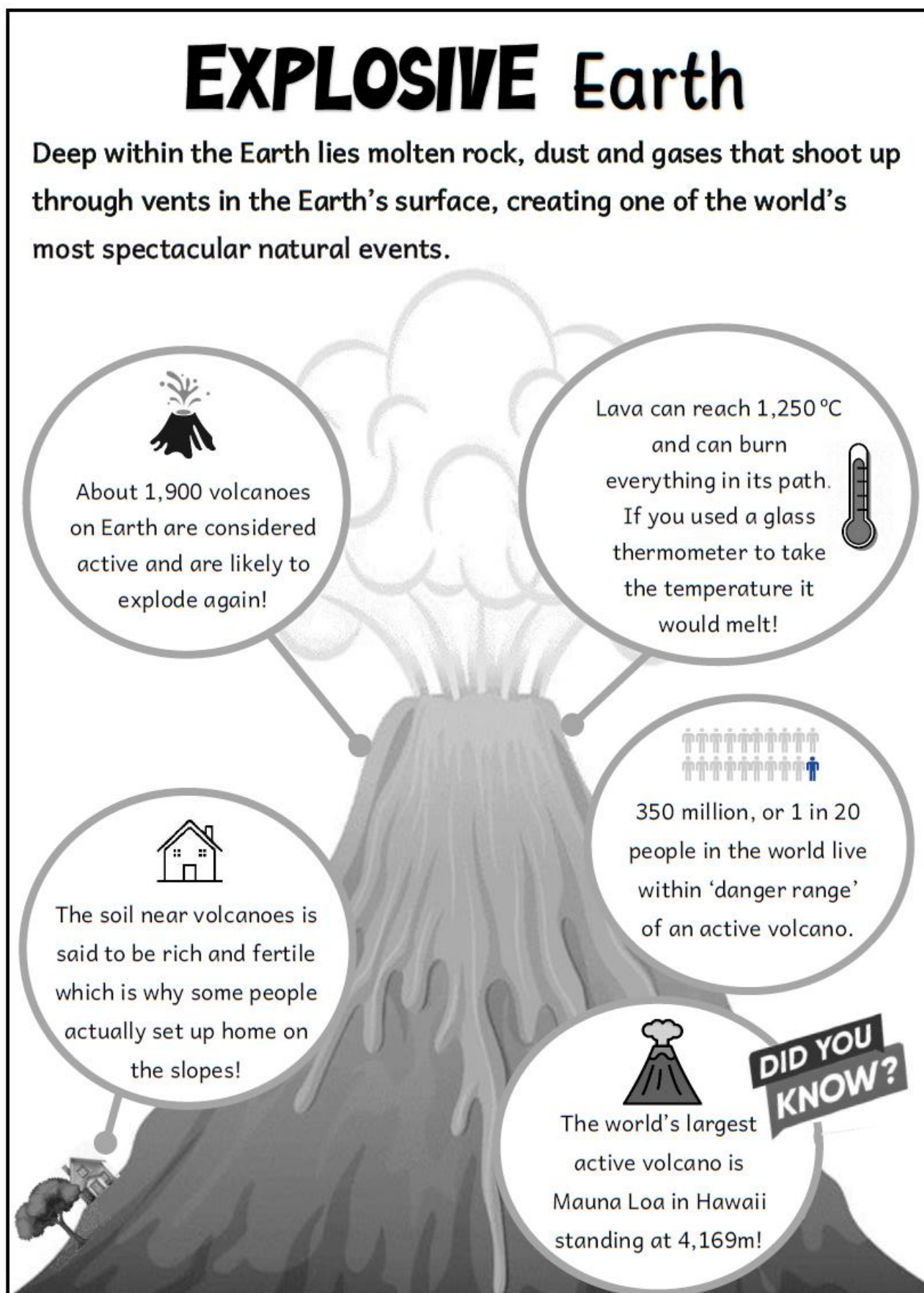
Time: 45 min

Reading Extracts Booklet

Name: _____

Class: _____

Read the following poster.



Adapted from: Volcano Fun Facts, National Geographic Kids, <http://news.nationalgeographic.co.uk/>

Reading Task 2

(20 marks)

Read the following text and answer all the questions in the Answers Booklet.

It was a crisp October day in Cedarwood Drive and a two-year-old girl was standing on a high stool in front of a huge window. She was watching the leaves fall, studying the patterns they made as they whirled their way through the air. Her eyes followed them until her gaze was caught by a single yellow leaf, almost exactly the shape of a hand. She watched as it swooped down into the yard and then sailed up high over the fence and across the street. She watched as it danced up and down in the breeze and then slapped flat onto the windshield of a passing lorry. (par. 1)



The lorry pulled up in front of old Mr Pinkerton's grey house. The driver climbed out, walked up the path and knocked on the door. Mr Pinkerton stepped outside, and the driver produced a map – the two men struck up a conversation. (par. 2)

Exactly one minute later an elegant woman turned the corner, carrying a large green picnic basket. With a glance to the house and the slightest nod from the driver, the woman removed her high-heeled shoes, scooped them up and nimbly scaled Mr Pinkerton's fence. Mr Pinkerton was busy studying the map and noticed nothing; the child saw everything. Forty-five seconds passed and the woman reappeared: she was carrying the same basket, but it looked much heavier than before, and its contents seemed to be moving. (par. 3)

The little girl attempted to grab her parents' attention but since her use of language was still limited, she could not get them to understand. She watched as the woman pushed her feet back into her black shoes, walked to the rear of the lorry and out of view. Mr Pinkerton chatted on. The girl jumped up and down, pointing at the window. Her parents, sensing she might be eager for a walk, went to put on their coats. (par. 4)

The child drew a lorry on her drawing book.

Her father smiled and patted her on the head.

Meanwhile, the driver folded his map, thanked Mr Pinkerton and returned to his vehicle – waving to him as he drove off. The yellow hand-shaped leaf fluttered to the ground. The woman, now minus the picnic basket, walked on by. She had a fresh scarlet scratch on her left cheek. (par. 5)

The child spelled out the lorry's license plate with her alphabet blocks. Her mother tidied them away and dressed her in a red woollen bobble hat and matching mittens. The family left the house and strolled down Cedarwood Drive. When they reached the grey house, the little girl paused to pick up the yellow leaf. A sudden cry shook the stillness of Cedarwood Drive. The neighbours came spilling out onto the street to find the kindly Mr Pinkerton doubled up with grief. (par. 6)

Despite the best efforts of the Twinford Crime Investigation Squad – a search which continued for sixteen weeks – Mr Pinkerton's prize-winning dog was never seen again. (par. 7)

It was on that October day that the little girl decided to brush up on her language skills. More importantly, that was the day she set her sights on becoming a detective.

The little girl was Ruby Redfort. (par. 8)



Adapted from: *Ruby Redfort, Look into My Eyes* (2011) by Lauren Child