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Heat in the Earth

Reading: The land of fire and ice

Sunday 19th June

Dad and I have just arrived in Iceland — the land of fire and ice! I am really looking forward to this holiday. I’m going to write everything down in this diary.

When we were flying over the island we could see the volcanoes and the glaciers. None of the volcanoes was erupting. I would like to see an eruption — it would be thrilling — but active volcanoes are dangerous. It’s safer when they’re quiet. Tomorrow we’re going to Hekla. It’s an active volcano but it hasn’t erupted for several years.

Monday 20th June

Today we climbed to the top of Hekla. We didn’t go into the crater, though. There was snow on the ground but in some places the rocks were warm. The snow was melting and the rocks were steaming. Our guide picked up a small rock and told us about it. When the volcano erupts, the rock from deep under the ground comes out of the volcano. The rock is so hot that it is liquid. It runs down the sides of the volcano, then it cools and goes hard. It’s called lava. It isn’t smooth at all. It feels very rough and a bit sharp. You can easily cut yourself on it.

Our guide’s name is Ari. In the hotel this evening he drew a diagram of what Hekla looks like inside. Now I understand why the ground was hot. There is liquid rock down there — now!

Ari showed us pictures of Hekla erupting. He let me keep this one. He is very nice. He’s a student at the moment but he’s going to be a geologist. He knows a lot about rocks and everything about the volcanoes in Iceland.
Tuesday 21st June
Today we saw a geyser — that’s a kind of hot spring. About every ten minutes hot water went shooting up from the ground like a huge fountain. It was fantastic. The water underground is heated by the hot rocks. First it bubbles then when it gets really hot it suddenly goes up about 10 metres high. Whoosh! What incredible power!
Dad took this picture.

Wednesday 22nd June
We went to a really strange place today. We went to the top of a volcano, then we went down inside. The ground was steaming and there were lots of hot springs. Sometimes these springs are boiling hot so you must be careful. There were noisy pools of hot bubbling mud, too! They’re called mud pots. What weird sounds! A long time ago people believed in dragons and monsters. They thought they lived in volcanoes and now I know why. The noises sounded like terrifying monsters under our feet. What a peculiar place!

Thursday 24th June
Today was terrific fun. We went to a gigantic pool outside. I thought the water would be freezing cold but it was like being in a warm bath! It was brilliant. A hot spring feeds the pool. It’s like having a hot tap running all the time so the pool never goes cold. I wanted to stay all day. Tomorrow Ari’s taking us to a glacier. This is the best holiday ever!
Reading comprehension and vocabulary

1 Read. Choose the correct ending.

1 Andy and his father arrived in a
   a Ireland.  b Iceland.
   a dangerous. b thrilling.
   a mountain. b volcano.
   a rough.  b smooth.
   a geologist. b student.
   a fountain. b hot spring.
   a the volcano. b hot rocks.
   a mud springs. b mud pots.

2 Tomorrow Ari is taking Andy and his dad to a
   a bath.  b pool.
   a glacier. b geyser.

2 Think about your answers to these questions.

1 How did Andy and his father travel to Iceland? How do you know?
2 How did Ari help Andy and his father?
3 Which place do you think Andy liked best? Why?
4 Which place would you like to visit? Why?
5 Do you think Iceland is a good place to visit? Why or why not?

3 Choose the best words to complete these sentences.

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<th>thrilling</th>
<th>guide</th>
<th>rough</th>
<th>eruption</th>
<th>weird</th>
<th>dragon</th>
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1 When you visit a new place, a ____________ can show you around.
2 The ____________ of a volcano is very noisy.
3 My uncle’s inventions always look very ____________ — and they never work!
4 This adventure story is really ____________ and it is full of surprises.
5 There is often a ____________ in old Chinese stories.
6 Some shells have spines on them and they feel ____________.
Grammar again! Fantastic!

Andy is going on holiday tomorrow. He is flying to Iceland with his father. They are leaving early tomorrow morning. They are travelling by plane.

2 Ask and answer.

What are they doing on Sunday?

On Sunday they’re flying to Iceland.

Our holiday plans

Sunday – fly – Iceland
Monday – climb – a volcano
Tuesday – see – a geyser
Wednesday – look – mud pots
Thursday – swim – a hot pool
Friday – ride – horses
Saturday – visit – waterfall

3 Look!

Sue

Ned

Kim

Dan

Lottie

Jon

4 Ask and answer.

What’s Sue doing tomorrow?

She’s playing basketball.

5 What are you doing tomorrow? Talk with your friends.
1 Listen and read.

Alex: Hey! Look at this!
Lucy: Wow! What an amazing photo!
Alex: Where is it? Do you know?
Lucy: Well, I'm not sure. It might be Switzerland.
Alex: You could be right.
Lucy: What fantastic mountain peaks!
Alex: And what beautiful snow!
Lucy: Brrrr! I bet it's cold in those mountains.
Alex: Would you like to go there?
Lucy: Definitely. What a spectacular country!

2 Think, write and say.

Look at the photos on pages 22 and 23.
Make sentences like this:

What a peculiar place!
What an interesting country!
What strange mud!
What weird pools!

3 Let's talk!

Hey! Look at this!
Wow! What an incredible place!

Useful phrases
Wow!
I'm not sure.
You could be right.
I bet ...
Definitely.
Spelling

For most nouns ending with **o**, we add **es** to make them plural.

1. Write the plurals. Add **es**.
   - potato: **potatoes**
   - tomato
   - hero
   - flamingo
   - volcano

2. Write the words.
   - potatoes
   - tomato
   - hero
   - flamingo
   - volcano
   - photos
   - pianos
   - hippos
   - This is a cockatoo.
   - Here are two cockatoos.

3. Write the plurals.
   - zoo
   - kangaroo

4. Listen and sing.
   - What a great day! The sun’s shining brightly.
   - What a great day! Not a cloud in the blue sky.
   - What a wonderful, marvellous, magical day
   - And I’m spending it with you!
Class composition

1 Andy and his father went to places in Iceland. Look at the pictures. Talk about them.

Friday

Dad

Ari [guide]

me

my horse, Gunnar

Saturday

2 Think about these questions.

How did they travel?
What did they see?  What did it look like?  How did it feel?  How did it sound?

3 Write Andy’s diary for Friday and Saturday.
Meg! Please take Patch for a walk!

But I can't go on my own.

It's Tom Winter, the wildlife expert.

Meg is taking Patch for a walk. Can you go with her, please?

Look! A kingfisher!

Wow!

Let's walk through the wood.

Look! What's that?

It's a lynx! It's very, very rare!

Look! Hawkwood House.

That's where Miss Havers lives.

What a fantastic car!

Patch! Come back.

We must catch him.

But I'm afraid of Miss Havers!