

Competition 2: Living with volcanoes

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Living near a volcano has many advantages and disadvantages, the major disadvantage of living near an active volcano is threat of an eruption. However, people who live near volcanoes tend to see the benefits rather than living in fear. Fertilised soil is a huge advantage, tephra (the scientific name for volcanic ash) contains minerals and nutrients which create the most fertile soil on the planet, which is why many areas around volcanoes tend to be farming villages and towns. Another advantage are mines, volcanoes form deposits of gold, diamond and various other valuable metals like zinc and nickel. They also produce water that humans use for their day to day lives, for example, hot water produced by volcanoes is used to heat homes and glacier water that has been melted through geothermal heat is used to make electricity. Volcanoes also shelter farmland from strong winds so crops can grow better. Volcanic activity deep underground heats the bedrock above it so any water that travels through it will turn into steam, this steam is used to turn turbines to produce electricity in geo thermal power plants, this is a renewable form of energy. In Iceland energy prices are 66% cheaper when compared to the UK. Living near volcanoes also boost the tourist industry in that area through hot springs waterfalls and geezers. However, the biggest advantage of living near a volcano is the beautiful view you can see every day!

