



## Mount Merapi Erupts, Creating 6km Ash Column

### What is Mount Merapi?

- Mount Merapi is the most active volcano in Indonesia.
- Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia and is home to 240 million people. It is made up of over 17,000 islands.

Mount Merapi, a volcano in Indonesia, has erupted. The 3000m-high mountain has sent a 6km column of ash into the sky.

The ash and smoke have mixed with the rain making it thick and muddy.

Indonesia's [Geology](#) and [Volcanology](#) Research Agency said the eruption lasted eight minutes.

It's helping people to keep safe. They have asked people to stay at least 3km away from the volcano.

The eruption was also loud — people heard it 29km away! The government has also closed a nearby airport.

The Geology and Volcanology Research Agency says that more eruptions could happen. They are working hard to prepare and protect people.

Indonesia is the largest country in Southeast Asia and lies on the equator. It's made up of over 17,000 islands and it's home to 500 volcanoes.

Mount Merapi is the most active of these volcanoes. An active volcano is one that has erupted in the last 10,000 years.

So why are there so many volcanoes in Indonesia? It sits on something called the Ring of Fire. 75% of the world's active volcanoes are in it.

The Ring of Fire is located around the Pacific Ocean. It's where a lot of [tectonic plates](#) meet.

Indonesia is near a boundary of two tectonic plates called the Java Trench. Volcanoes frequently form on the boundaries of tectonic



Illustration: Mount Merapi.

plates. Tectonic plates moving can also create earthquakes. 90% of the world's earthquakes happen around the Ring of Fire.

When plates push against each other, it can cause volcanoes to occur. Eruptions happen because the [magma](#) chamber inside a volcano fills up with magma.

Eventually, the pressure and magma inside the chamber are too much and the volcano will erupt.

Scientists are working hard to predict volcano eruptions. They are using the latest technology, such as satellites, to make their predictions more accurate.

### Glossary

<b>geology</b>	The study of rocks and fossils.
<b>volcanology</b>	The study of volcanoes.
<b>tectonic plates</b>	A large slab of rock on the Earth's outer surface.
<b>magma</b>	Hot liquid that cools to form lava or rock.

# Questions

1. Find and copy two facts about the eruption.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think the Ring of Fire gets its name? Explain your answer.

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3. Indonesia's Geology and Volcanology Research Agency are working hard to keep people safe. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows this.

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4. 'Mount Merapi is the most active of these volcanoes.'  
This suggests that...

- ☐ it's the volcano that erupts the most.
- ☐ it's particularly noisy.
- ☐ it's the largest volcano.
- ☐ it's the one scientists find the most interesting.

5. What do you think scientists will do next? Explain your answer.

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6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. Find and copy two facts about the eruption.

**Accept any two from the following: a 6km ash column was sent into the air; the ash and smoke have mixed with the rain making it thick and muddy; the eruption was also loud - people heard it 29km away!**

2. Why do you think the Ring of Fire gets its name? Explain your answer.

**Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think the Ring of Fire gets its name because it's where 75% of the world's volcanoes occur.**

3. Indonesia's Geology and Volcanology Research are working hard to keep people safe. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows this.

**Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. They have asked people to keep 3km away from the volcano.**

4. 'Mount Merapi is the most active of these volcanoes.'

This suggests that...

- ☒ **it's the volcano that erupts the most.**
- ☐ it's particularly noisy.
- ☐ it's the largest volcano.
- ☐ it's the one scientists find the most interesting.

5. What do you think scientists will do next? Explain your answer.

**Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think scientists will try to use the latest technology to predict when volcanoes will erupt so they will keep people safe.**

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable summary that is 20 words or fewer, e.g. Mount Merapi, a volcano in Indonesia, has erupted. The mountain has sent a 6km column of ash into the sky.**