



## **Pedro's Decision**

**Discuss-Research-Create (1-4 grade, adapt accordingly)**

### **Volcanoes:**

**Discuss the facts:** The earth never rests! Volcanoes begin with a crack in the earth's surface. The crack reaches down about 30 miles inside the earth to a pocket of melted rock called **MAGMA**. This magma is slowly pushed up to the earth's surface. A **CONE** shape is formed at the top of the volcano with a **CRATER** at the top. The pressure that builds up when the magma pushes up through the volcano causes an **ERUPTION**. The magma changes form and is called **LAVA** when it pours out of the crater on the top of the volcano. Some volcanoes also produce **STEAM, GAS and ASH** many miles up into the atmosphere during an eruption.



**Research/Explore:** Go to the library or search on the Internet for information on where 5 “active” volcanoes are located in the world. Which continents/countries? When did they last erupt?

**Create:** Using crayons or markers draw a colorful picture of an active volcano. Then, with arrows, label the **MAGMA, CRATER, GAS, STEAM, ASH, CONE** and **LAVA**. Then write what each word means next to the label.



## **Examining Animals in the rainforest:**

**Discuss the facts:** There are many different creatures that exist in the rainforest. In “Pedro’s Decision”, we met a howler monkey, a Uracca bird and a gecko. Each one of these animals is classified differently. The monkey is a mammal (an animal with hair), the Uracca bird is a bird (an animal with feathers) and the gecko is an amphibian (a cold blooded animal with wet skin).

**Research/Explore:** Go with a partner to the library or search the Internet for information on more rainforest animals and make a chart of the animals that are *mammals, birds or amphibians*. How many did you find? Compare your chart with other classmates and then make a class chart.

**Create:** Use butcher-block paper draw a mural of what you would see in a real rainforest with your classmates. Use lots of colors because the rainforest is vibrant. Make sure to include all kinds of animals and foliage. Label your mural. Then, have your teacher post it up in the hallway!



## **What are islands & how are they formed?:**

**Discuss facts:** Islands are bodies of land completely surrounded by water.

*Islands are formed in several ways*

1. Underwater volcanoes rise up under the ocean and peak above the water to form islands. The lava continues to pile up as the volcano explodes to create solid ground to form an island.
2. Some islands such as Great Britain were attached to a continent but were separated by *erosion* of the land between the two landmasses.
3. Other islands are coral islands. These were formed when the skeletal material of *corals* piled up over years and years.

**Research/Explore:** How many islands can you name? Go to a map in your classroom and make a list of 10 islands you see. Guess how some of them were formed.



**Create:** Write about it: If you had your own island, what would you make sure you have on it? Include lots of details. Be creative and imaginative!