MT. EREBUS: A SURPRISING VOLCANO

Ross Island is a cold place. It is near Antarctica. This means that Mt. Erebus is covered by snow and ice all year long. But the inside of the volcano is very hot. Steam from the inside of the volcano comes out the sides through cracks and makes the ice melt and form caves made out of ice. When the hot steam moves into the cold air, it freezes into pillars. They look like icicles that point up into the sky. These pillars are called icicles that point up into the sky.

Opening to an ice tower near the lower Erebus hut. Photo courtesy of Jean Pennycook, Mt. Erebus Image Gallery.

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There are volcanoes all over the world. Some of them are very old. They do not erupt anymore. But many volcanoes still erupt. Mt. Erebus erupts almost every day!

Scientists travel to Ross Island to study this special volcano. They want to learn more about what happens deep inside it. Would you like to study volcanoes, too?

What come from the volcano. Most of the time, though, steam and smoke are air. Scientists call these chunks "lava bombs." Sometimes, a big bubble of gas inside the volcano shoots a big chunk of lava out into the air isn’t made of water. It’s made of lava! But this lake isn’t made of water. It’s made of lava.

At the top of the volcano is a lake. But this lake isn’t made of water. It’s made of lava.
Ross Island is near the bottom of the world. On this island is a strange mountain. The mountain's name is Mt. Erebus (er-uh-buh's). Mt. Erebus: A surprising volcano.

GLOSSARY

VOLCANO - an opening in earth's surface from which lava flows.
LAVA - melted rock that reaches Earth's surface when lava flows out of a volcano.
ERUPTION - when lava flows out of a volcano.

Steam from the top of Mount Erebus. Photo courtesy of jeanneem, Flickr.

Mt. Erebus. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.
How can there be a volcano in such a cold place? The cold weather does not affect the volcano. Instead, the volcano’s heat comes from deep inside the Earth.

But Mt. Erebus isn’t just a mountain. It is a volcano. A volcano is an opening in Earth’s surface. Melted rock called lava flows out of the opening. When this happens, it is called an eruption.