

From Cornfield to Volcano

Although some volcanoes seem silent, they may still erupt one day. Others are dead and will not erupt again. Most volcanoes grow into mountains over thousands of years. Yet one, called Paricutín, erupted from flat land and grew quickly. ●

Skill Here is a detail that tells one way Paricutín is different from most volcanoes.

One day in 1943, a Mexican farmer noticed a new crack in his field. Then he felt the earth shake. What happened next was really a ● surprise. The farmer saw the ground lift up about fifteen feet out of the crack! As in eruptions of other volcanoes, ash began pouring out, and the air smelled like rotten eggs.

Strategy This might be confusing. If you are having trouble understanding, slow down. A comparison between Paricutín and other volcanoes is coming up.

By the next morning, the new volcano had grown thirty feet. At the end of the week, the volcano was 450 feet high. In two months, Paricutín grew 1,000 feet!

Like other volcanoes, Paricutín damaged farms and towns. Its latest eruption was in 1952, nine years after its first.