

Year 3 Home Learning Activities

The Pebble in my Pocket

by Meredith Hooper

Illustrated by Chris Coady

Can you find a pebble or look at a picture of one?



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What do you notice about it? What do you wonder?

Try to draw your pebble!

What is it like?

Notice patterns and details.

What describing words (adjectives) would you use to describe your pebble?

Look at these examples of free verse list poems:

Water

Sinks clog
Water streams mud in a bog
Waves crash rain falls
Pitter pitter pat pat
Against the dripping wall
Ice melts and drizzles down
The frosty tree trunk without a sound
Seas surge and oceans whirl
Rivers run and fountains twirl
Water water everywhere
Squirting and sprinkling
Without a care!

Similes (like a...)

Sand

This morning I found
some sand in my shoe.
I remembered the beach.
I thought about you.

We were summertime friends.
We swam in the sea.
If you find bits of beach
in your shoe...think of me.

Red

Red like a firetruck,
Red like a cherry,
Red like a ladybug,
Or a strawberry.

Red like an apple,
On an apple tree.
Red like a stop sign,
Or a popsicle so sweet!



Exclamation ending

Which words and phrases make poetry powerful?

Alliteration

(same sound at the start of words next to each other)

Onomatopoeia

(words that sound like the sound they make)

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Squirting and sprinkling
Without a care!

Powerful verbs

(show clear action and impact)

Adjectives

(describe and add interesting, appropriate detail to a noun)

Pretend your chosen pebble is your pocket...

Create your own free verse list poem with phrases:

The pebble in my pocket is...

As a starting point, you could write a line about:

- its texture
- its colour
- its pattern
- its weight
- where it was found
- you may end with an exclamation or question about it

Once you have written your own poem...

- Can you improve any words?
- What happens if you change the order of your lines?
Which lines sound best to you and why?

You are the poet!

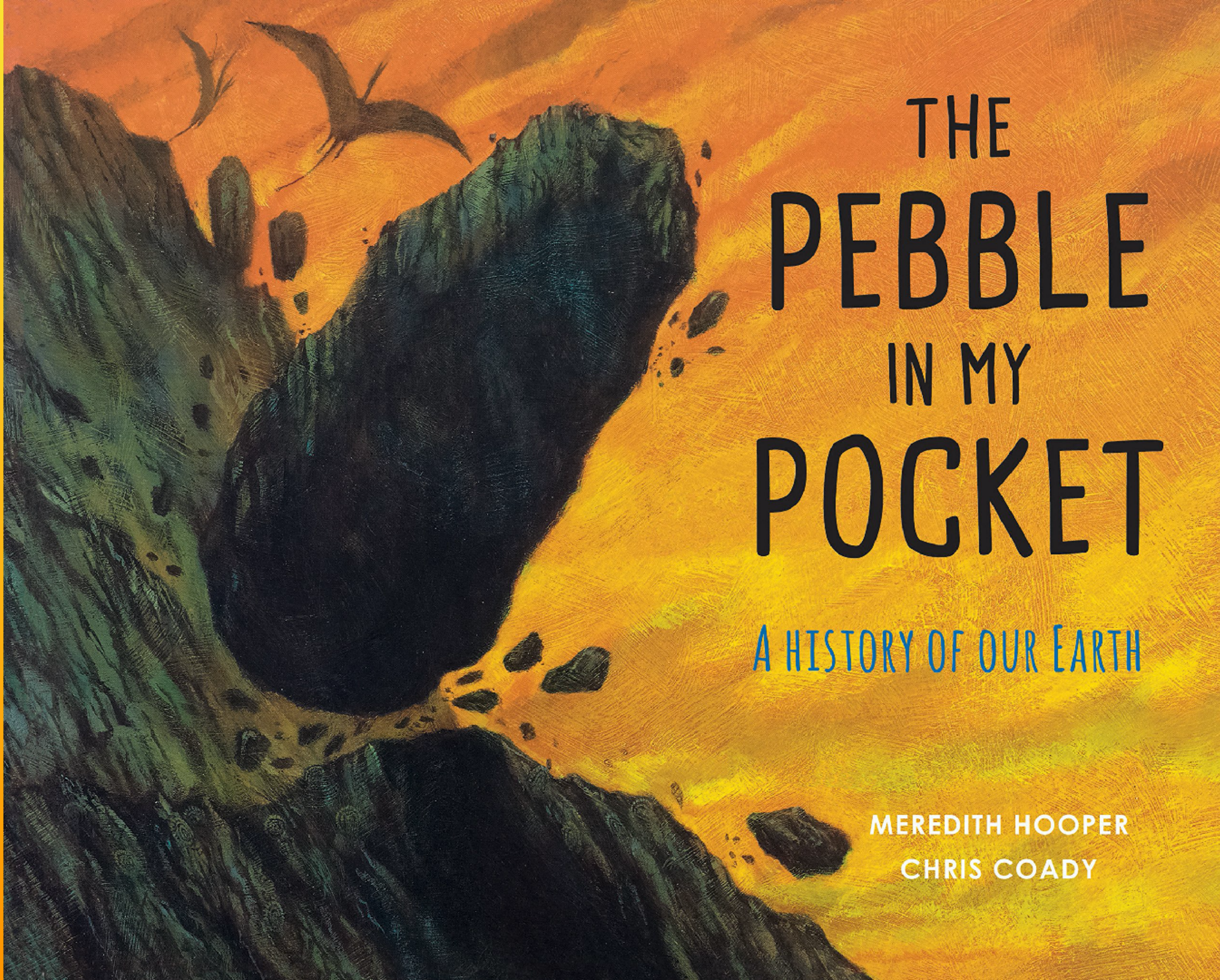
Choose how to organise your poem, then practise reading it aloud with clear volume and rhythm. Can you perform it to someone?

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THE PEBBLE IN MY POCKET

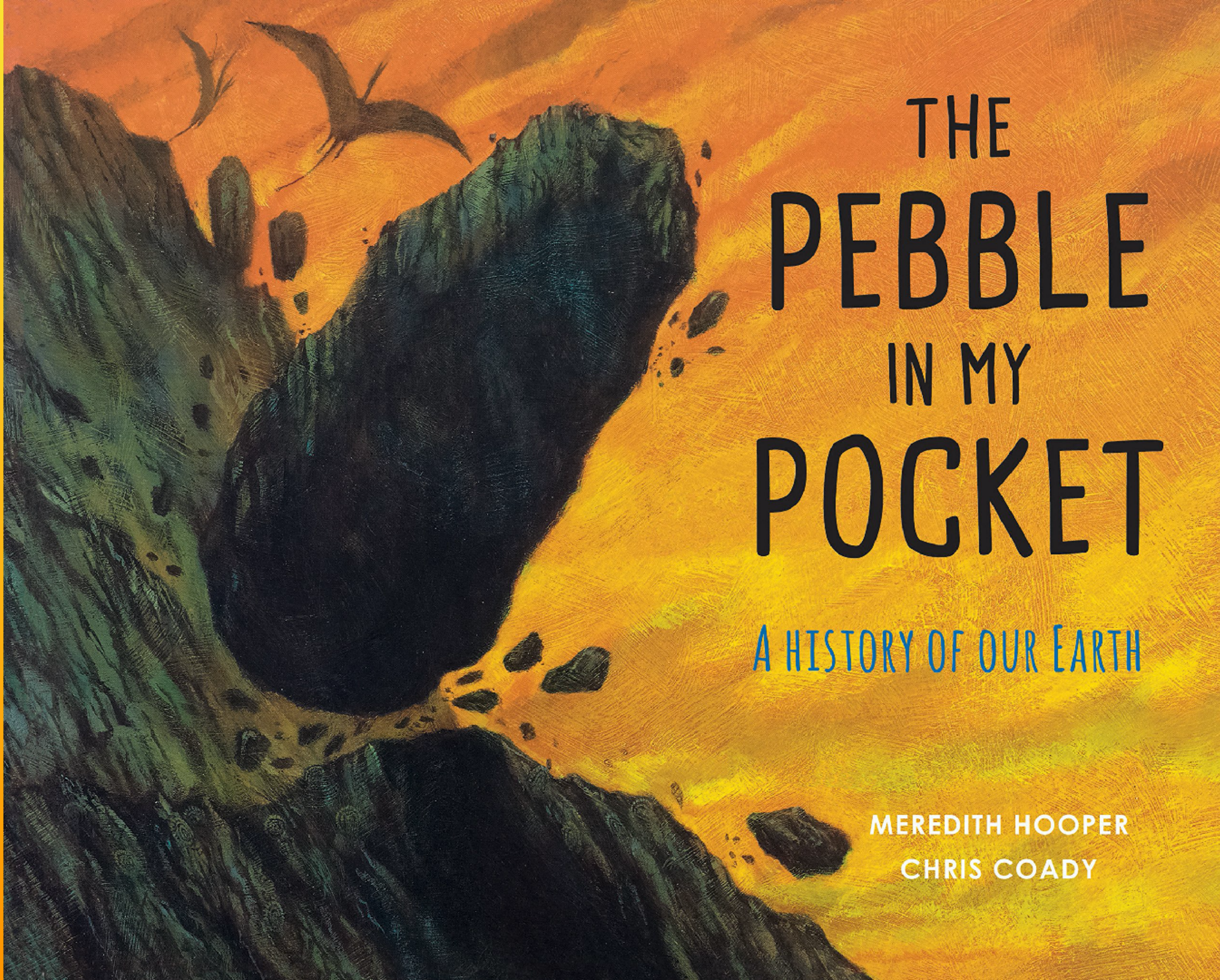
A HISTORY OF OUR EARTH

MEREDITH HOOPER
CHRIS COADY

What do you notice about the illustration on the front cover?

**Do you like the front cover?
Why/why not?**

Do you like the title? Why/why not?



THE PEBBLE IN MY POCKET

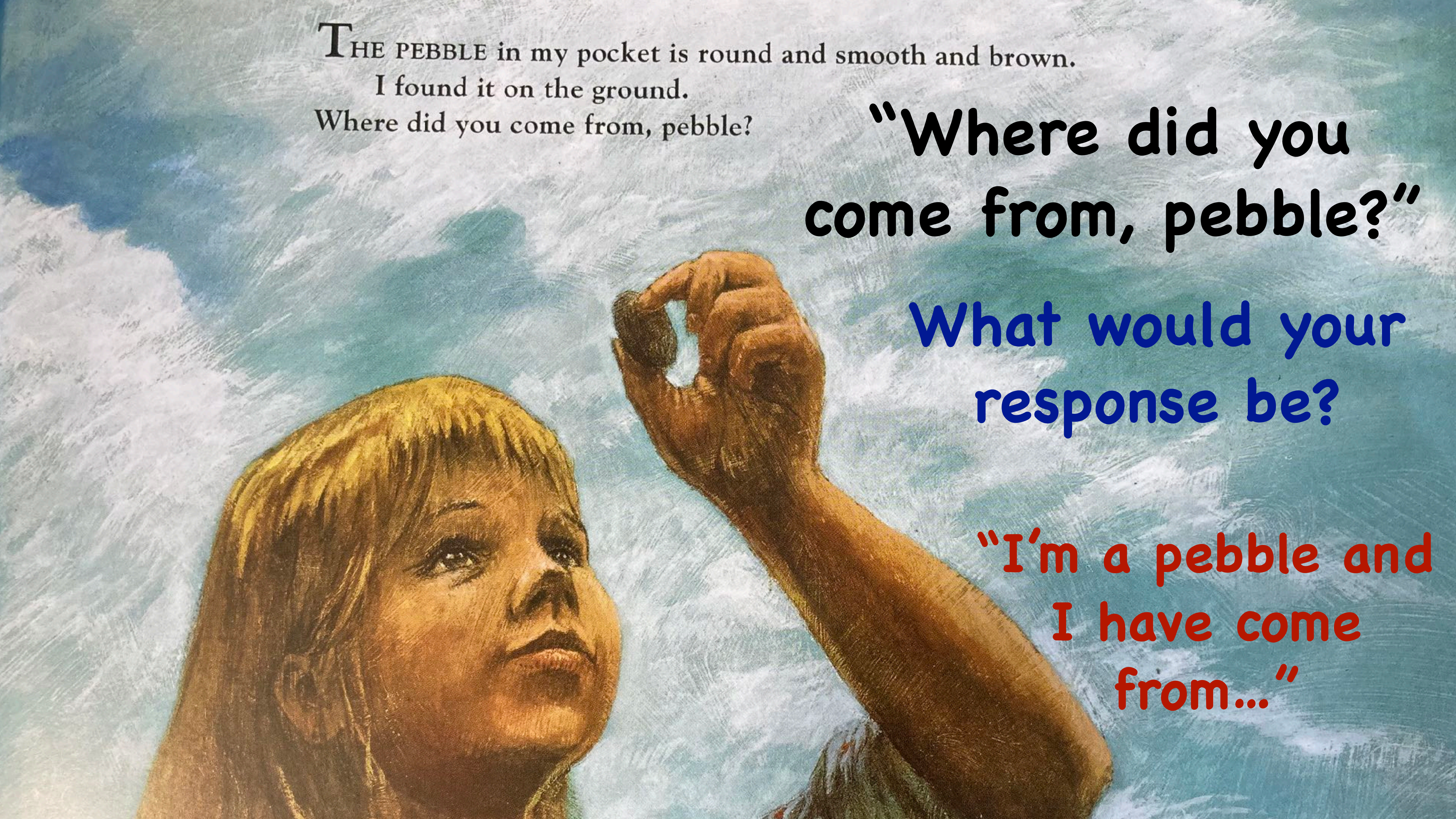
A HISTORY OF OUR EARTH

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Does it remind you
of anything else
you've read or seen?

What do you think
the book may be
about?

What questions do
you have?

A painting of a young girl with long blonde hair looking up at a hand holding a small pebble against a cloudy sky. The girl is on the left, looking up towards the right. A hand is on the right, holding a small, round, brown pebble. The background is a sky with soft, white and blue clouds.

THE PEBBLE in my pocket is round and smooth and brown.
I found it on the ground.
Where did you come from, pebble?

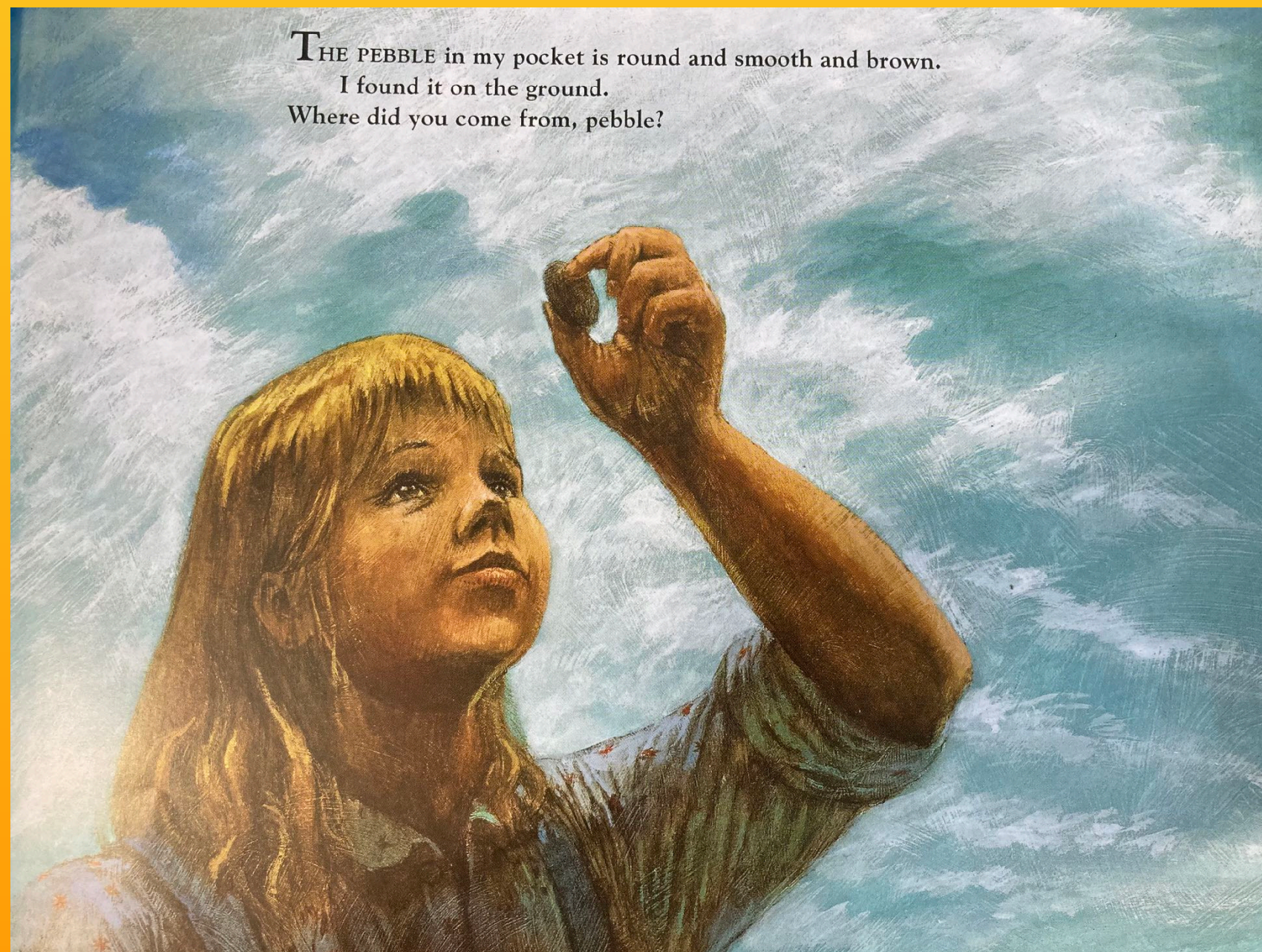
**“Where did you
come from, pebble?”**

**What would your
response be?**

**“I’m a pebble and
I have come
from...”**

We are exploring life 480,000,000 (480 million) years ago!

What do you think the world might have been like then?



**What do you
already know about
the Earth's history?**

**What would you
like to know?**

**Create a mind map or list of what
you would like to find out about.**

Later on, you should be able to add your learning to answer your own questions.

Read this text twice or have it read aloud to you if you can

Under the volcano, melted rock shifts like thick treacle. The molten rock is nine times hotter than boiling water.

The rocks covering the earth are cold and hard. They form a thin crust like a rind, about thirty kilometres thick beneath the continents, but only five kilometres thick under the oceans. The deeper you go down inside the crust, the hotter it gets. Below the crust lies mantle rock, so hot it can start creeping, and shifting, and melting.

The ground shakes. Gas hisses from the top of the volcano. Columns of purple ash shoot into the sky. Glowing fragments hurl through the air. Then the lava comes, molten rock spilling red-hot down the volcano's sides, and flowing out over the land.

The lava cools. It hardens, forming a thick, wrinkled skin of new rock.

Everything is still. The seas swarm with living things. But nothing is living on this land.

It is 480 million years ago.

What do you picture in your mind?

Write a list of words you **like** and a list of words you **don't understand**

Under the volcano, melted rock shifts like thick treacle. The molten rock is nine times hotter than boiling water.

The rocks covering the earth are cold and hard. They form a thin crust like a rind, about thirty kilometres thick beneath the continents, but only five kilometres thick under the oceans. The deeper you go down inside the crust, the hotter it gets. Below the crust lies mantle rock, so hot it can start creeping, and shifting, and melting.

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Talk to an adult to help you understand parts of the text

THEME:

Create a piece of artwork to show what you saw in your mind.

You could...

- draw a picture
- use chalk or pastels
- make a painting

You could add colour if you choose to.

Revisit the text for key words to remind you of what was described.

THEME:

Label your artwork with key words and phrases that helped you picture the landscape most clearly.

Why do you think these were powerful? For example...

Similes

rock shifts like a treacle

crust like a rind

Verbs

shifting

hurl

spilling

hisses

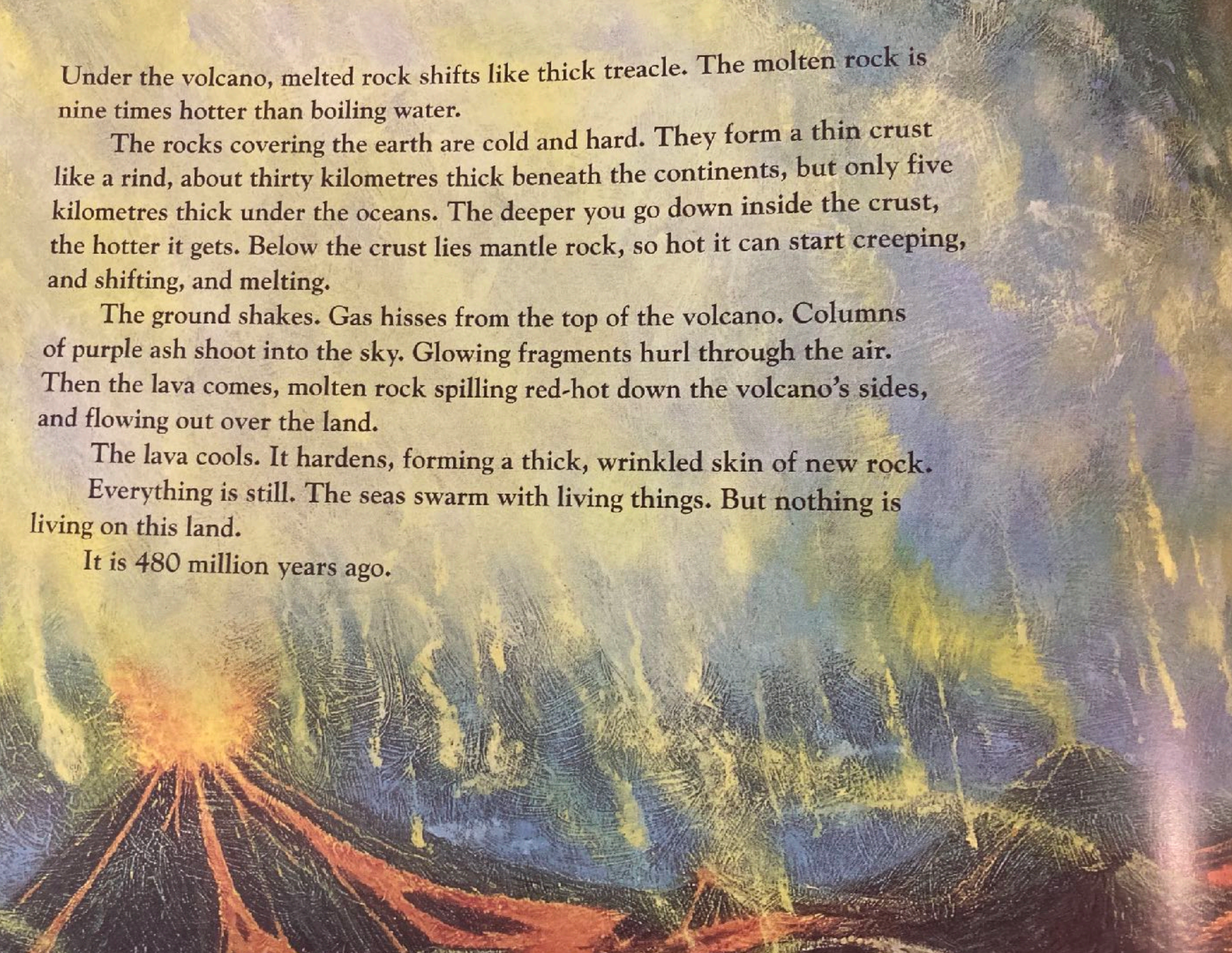
creeping

shoot

melting

swarm

- Add more of your own descriptive words and phrases.
- Write sentences about how the text made you feel.



Under the volcano, melted rock shifts like thick treacle. The molten rock is nine times hotter than boiling water.

The rocks covering the earth are cold and hard. They form a thin crust like a rind, about thirty kilometres thick beneath the continents, but only five kilometres thick under the oceans. The deeper you go down inside the crust, the hotter it gets. Below the crust lies mantle rock, so hot it can start creeping, and shifting, and melting.

The ground shakes. Gas hisses from the top of the volcano. Columns of purple ash shoot into the sky. Glowing fragments hurl through the air. Then the lava comes, molten rock spilling red-hot down the volcano's sides, and flowing out over the land.

The lava cools. It hardens, forming a thick, wrinkled skin of new rock.

Everything is still. The seas swarm with living things. But nothing is living on this land.

It is 480 million years ago.

Do you like the illustration?

Why/why not?



THEME:

**Let's learn
about
volcanoes!**

Here are some links to help you have fun with learning about volcanoes...

[Volcano Youtube video playlist](#)

[Volcano facts](#)

[Volcano interactive learning](#)

[How to make a volcano](#)

[Pobble volcano activities](#)



You could create a fact file, poster, presentation, 3D model, PicCollage or come up with your own activity.

Key Volcano Vocabulary

volcano

crust

vent

crater

fault

core

conduit

ash

mantle

sill

eruption

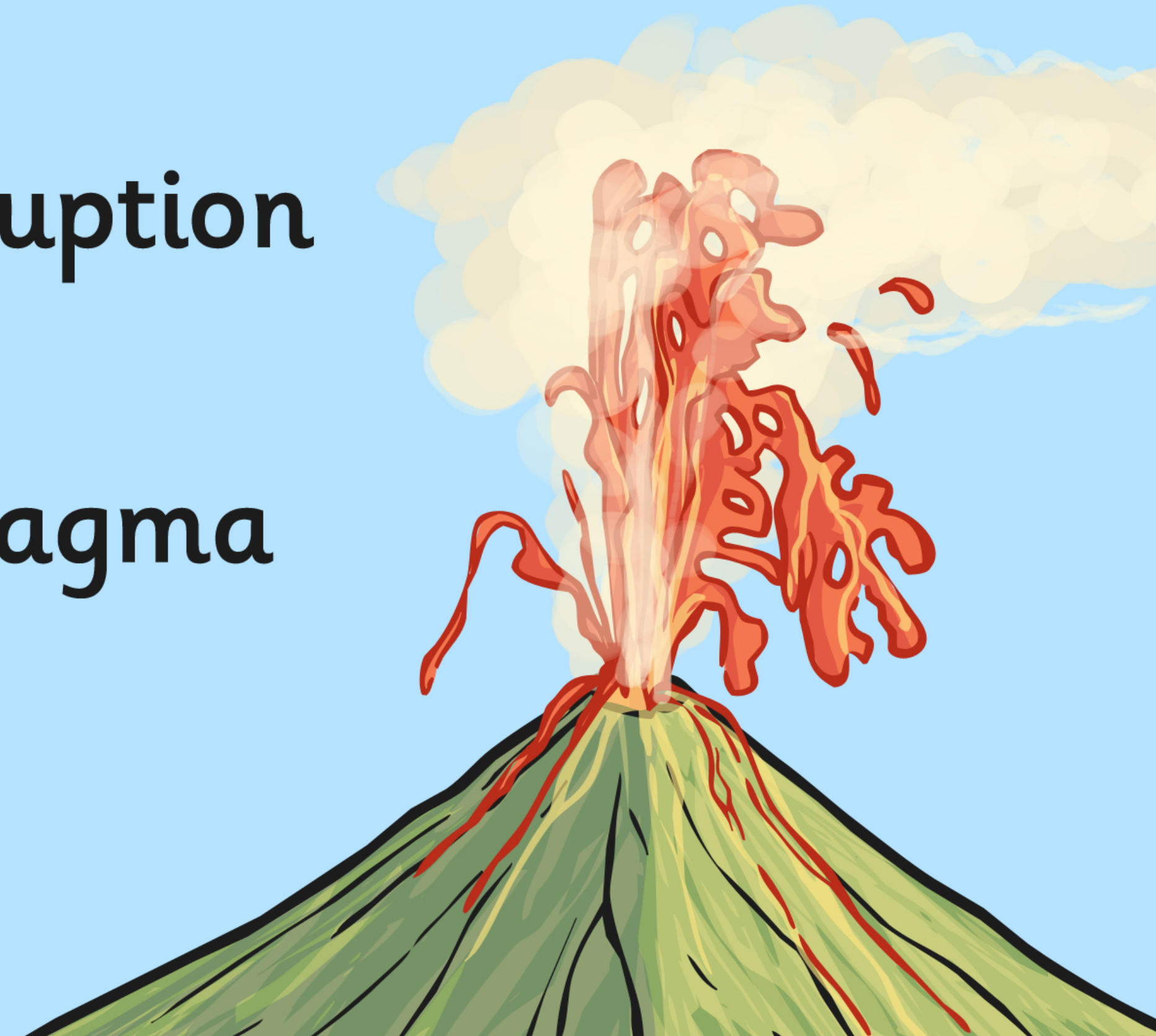
ring of fire

lava

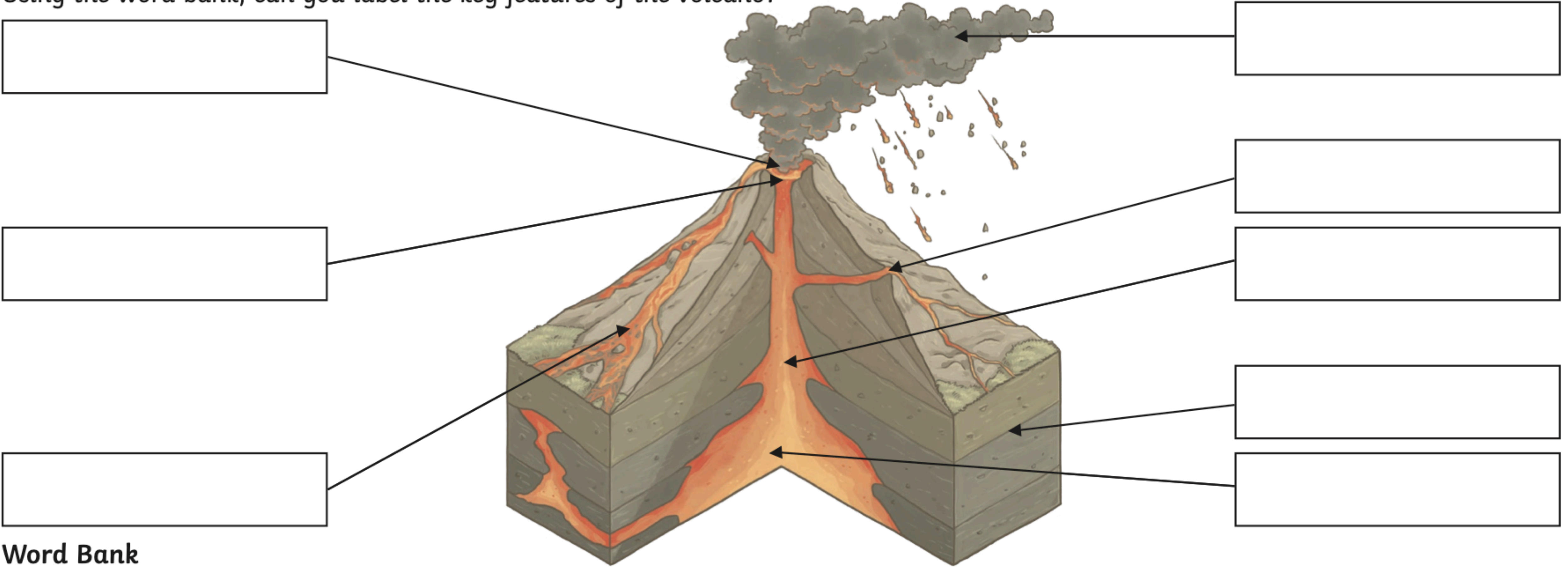
magma

active

dormant



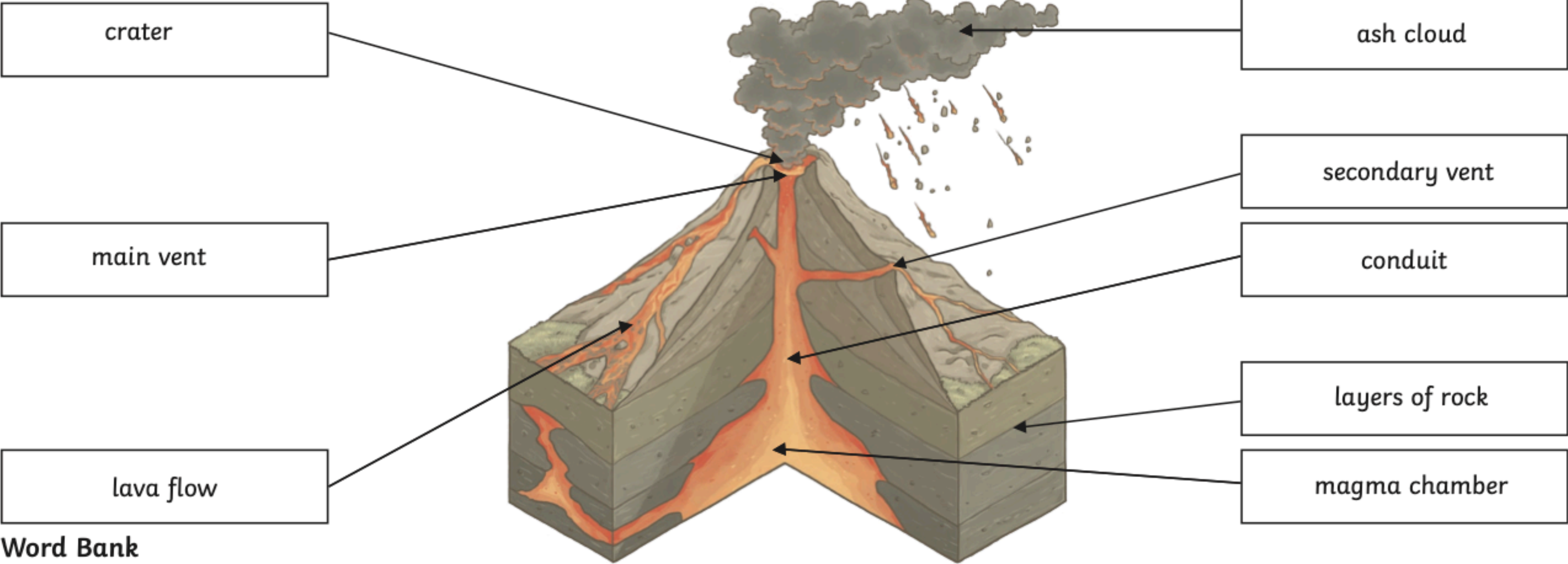
Using the word bank, can you label the key features of the volcano?



Word Bank

ash cloud	secondary vent	magma chamber	main vent
lava flow	layers of rock	conduit	crater

Using the word bank, can you label the key features of the volcano?



Word Bank

ash cloud The cloud of ash formed above the volcano from the force of the volcanic explosion. The ash can drift in the sky and fall back to earth.	secondary vent Another vent through which the magma and other rocks and gases can flow out.	magma chamber A pool of magma beneath the volcano.	main vent The main vent is the primary opening of the volcano through which the magma and other rocks and gases flow out.
lava flow After erupting, some of the hot lava will flow down the sides of the volcano.	layers of rock The earth's crust is made of several layers of rock.	conduit The underground passage through which the magma flows from the chamber towards the vent.	crater The crater is the mouth of the volcano which surrounds the vent.