

MOUNT ETNA

~ a case study ~

TASK

To produce a newspaper front page story about the 1991-1992 eruption of Mount Etna.

You story **MUST** include:

- Details of exactly what happened during the eruption which started on 14th December 1991
- Details of what the Italians did to try and deal with this eruption and protect the village of Zafferana

(all the information you need is in this leaflet)

You could **ALSO** include:

- *Details about the location of Mount Etna*
- *A diagram to show why it erupts*
- *Make up eye-witness accounts of what the eruption was like*
- *Make up eye-witness accounts of how they tried to protect the village*

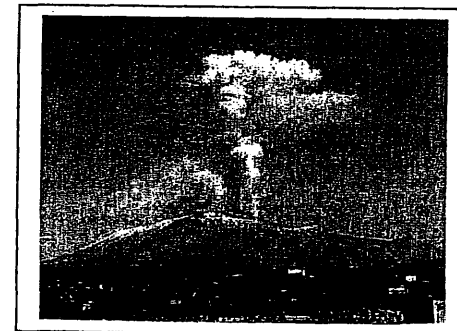
Mount Etna is Europe's largest volcano. In winter the upper slopes are covered in snow but in summer there is just brown lava dust and lava flows a moon-like landscape on earth.

Further down the mountain there is forest and groves of walnut and hazel. Lower still there are vineyards, cherry orchards, orange and olive groves, farms, and many villages.

Over 1 million people live on the slopes of this very active volcano, enjoying the sunny climate, farming the fertile soils and making money from the tourists. As Sicily's population grows more and more people live there, encouraged by the fact that this volcano rarely kills (even though they know it destroys).


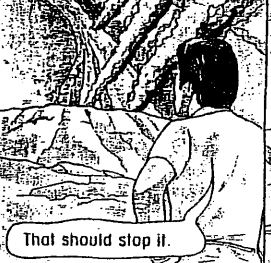



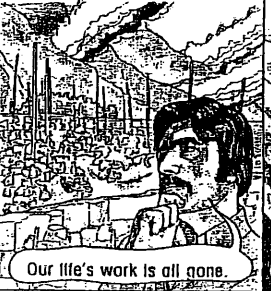


Everything is based on lava the roads are made of it; the houses are built of lava blocks; many crops grow well on the rich soil which has weathered from the lava dust.

Every so often, the volcano takes it all back again



People in the Mount Etna area are well used to their volcano erupting. They can never stop it but have learned ways of reducing the damage and danger.

Zafferana is a farming village 10kms from the summit of Mount Etna. It was badly hit by lava in 1792 then enjoyed 200 years without damage. *Late in 1991 the village was once again threatened by an eruption lasting four months*

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| <p>1 14 December 1991 Major eruption. Millions of tonnes of lava spill down mountainside.</p>  | <p>2 January 1992 Lava flows into old crater. Army builds dam to trap it there.</p>  <p>That should stop it.</p> | <p>3 Early April 1992 Lava overflows crater and threatens village.</p>  | <p>4 12 April 1992 Italian Army use dynamite to slow lava flow.</p>  <p>That's had no effect at all.</p> |
| <p>5 14 April 1992 United States Army drop 2-tonne concrete blocks to stop lava.</p>  <p>The blocks are just floating away.</p> | <p>6 15 April 1992 Vineyards are destroyed on edge of Zafferana.</p>  <p>Our life's work is all gone.</p> | <p>7 17 April 1992 Lava destroys houses and farm buildings.</p>  <p>Another 500 metres and we've lost the village.</p> | <p>8 23 April 1992 Strengthened dams above village divert lava.</p>  <p>Safe at last. It's gone round us.</p> |

Methods used to protect Zafferana

