



## VOLCANO Zone!

### Writer's Tip

- The *topic sentence* should clearly state what your article is going to be about.
- Include *supporting details* that give more information about the topic.

Volcanoes are one of the most destructive natural forces on Earth! Since the 1400s, volcanoes have killed hundreds of thousands of people. And many more lives remain in danger.

When you think of a volcanic eruption, you probably imagine red-hot lava flowing down the side of a volcano. Lava flows are dangerous, but they usually move slowly enough for people to get out of the way. Property loss—including burned buildings and ruined crops—is more common.

Mudslides and the release of poisonous gases are even greater dangers. A powerful eruption can also cause earthquakes and tsunamis (giant ocean waves). A large-scale eruption can even change the climate of the Earth. The ash released into the atmosphere can partially block the sun's rays for many years. The power of a volcanic eruption is one of the most awesome forces in nature. That means an active volcano zone is also a danger zone.



## Topic Sentence/Supporting Details

- ▶ Reread the passage. Underline the topic sentence. Circle the supporting details. Then write the topic sentence and two details in the chart below.

Detail	Topic Sentence	Detail
Volcanoes have killed many people.		

## Your Turn

- ▶ Choose a subject to write about, such as a natural disaster. What would your topic sentence be? What supporting details could you give? Fill in the chart below.

Detail	Topic Sentence	Detail

- ▶ Use the graphic organizer to write an opening for your article. Include a topic sentence and a few details.