

Name _____ Date _____

Fire and Ice

In the far North Atlantic, just barely below the Arctic Circle, is a small island country called Iceland. If you were passing by it in a cruise ship one summer day, you might wonder why it is called Iceland, since its coast is so grassy and inviting.	14 29 44 47
In truth, only the coast of Iceland is green, and only in summer. Almost all of the people who live in Iceland have their homes along the coast.	61 75
A large plateau takes up most of Iceland. A plateau is land that is high and flat, like a tabletop. Iceland's high tabletop land covers the middle of the island.	90 103 105
Covering part of Iceland's plateau is a thick, black crust. It was created thousands of years ago, as the island's 200 volcanoes erupted. When volcanoes erupt, they spit out hot lava. When lava cools, it hardens.	118 129 141
Huge sheets of ice called glaciers cover another large part of Iceland's plateau. Some of these glaciers have lakes of melted ice in them.	153 165
Iceland also has more hot springs than any other place in the world and the country has many hot-water geysers, too. Geysers are springs of hot water that erupt into the air.	179 191 197
Contrary to what many people believe, the weather never gets very cold in Iceland, even in January! This is partly because ocean currents bring warmer water up from the south. This helps to keep the air temperature from getting very cold.	209 221 235 238
This small island is special in many ways. In the middle are volcanoes, hot springs, and frozen glaciers. In other parts, however, you can find grassy areas.	251 263 265
The first people to explore this island must have been surprised. Who would expect to find both volcanoes and glaciers on one small island?	276 289

