

Make Volcano Stories with TinkerTell AI for Schools

Lesson Overview

Grade Level: 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

Duration: 40 Minutes

Location: Media Lab

Subject Integration: Science, Language Arts, Digital Literacy

Standards Alignment:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3, W.4.3, W.5.3: Write narratives using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences (adapted for grade level)
- NGSS 2-ESS1-1 (3rd grade connections), 4-ESS2-2, 5-ESS2-1: Earth's features and processes

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe key features of a specific volcano
2. Use TinkerTell AI to generate a story incorporating scientific facts about volcanoes
3. Practice editing and customizing AI-generated content to demonstrate understanding

Materials Needed

- TinkerTell AI for Schools (logged into dashboard)
- Computer/tablet for each student OR access to TinkerTell's Explore Together for device-limited classrooms
- Smartboard for demonstration and Explore Together implementation
- Volcano facts sheet or previous coloring pages with vignettes
- Volcano Match-Up Game (completed earlier)
- Whiteboard or display for modeling
- Access to printer for instant story printouts with comprehension questions

Pre-Class Preparation

1. Log into TinkerTell AI for Schools dashboard
2. Create differentiated assignments based on student reading/writing levels
3. Select lesson template "Science Narrative Creation" from standards-aligned lessons
4. Test prompt examples for one volcano to ensure appropriate content generation

Lesson Sequence

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Welcome students and explain they'll be creating volcano adventure stories using TinkerTell's AI
- Briefly review the 10 volcanoes discussed in previous activities
- Demonstrate how to access TinkerTell on their devices and log in

Volcano Selection and Research (7 minutes)

- Have students select one volcano from the list that interests them most
- Ask students to review their volcano facts from previous activities (coloring sheets, match-up game)
- Instruct students to write down 3 scientific facts about their chosen volcano they want to include in their story

TinkerTell Demonstration (5 minutes)

- Model on the main screen helping them write a prompt with TinkerTell to generate a story
- Demonstrate a sample prompt: "Create a story about a young scientist [Named] from a place [description] visiting Mount Vesuvius who discovers [fact 1], learns about [fact 2], and witnesses [fact 3]."
- Show how to adjust story length, reading level, and themes using the dashboard controls

Story Generation (8 minutes)

- Students create their own prompts using their chosen volcano and facts
- Guide students to include specific elements based on differentiated assignments:
- 3rd Grade: Focus on basic story sequence, simple character actions, and one clear volcano fact
- 4th Grade: Add character names, setting details, and 2-3 volcano facts with descriptive language
- 5th Grade: Create complex plots with dialogue, multiple characters, and detailed scientific explanations

Story Editing and Enhancement (10 minutes)

- Students read their generated stories and begin customizing based on their assigned focus areas
- Teacher circulates to provide assistance and feedback
- Encourage students to incorporate additional volcano facts from their research
- Demonstrate how to use TinkerTell's AI revision tools to improve specific parts of the story

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- **TinkerTell's Explore Together:** For classrooms without individual devices, use TinkerTell's Explore Together implementation where students work offline to write prompts and edit their stories in printed format while the teacher facilitates story generation on the smartboard

Instant Assessment and Extension (New Section - 3 minutes)

- Use TinkerTell's instant printout feature to generate tailored story copies for each student
- Print stories with automatic comprehension questions based on student reading level and story content
- Distribute printed materials so students can continue working offline if needed
- These comprehension questions can serve as immediate formative assessment or homework extension

Sharing and Reflection (2 minutes)

- Ask 1-2 volunteers to share interesting parts of their volcano stories using the smartboard display
- Lead a brief discussion: "What was surprising about your volcano that you included in your story?"
- Have students complete a quick exit ticket: "One scientific fact I included in my story was..."

Differentiation

- **3rd Grade Adaptations:** Provide sentence starters, focus on basic story structure, use simpler vocabulary prompts, and offer picture cues for volcano selection
- **4th Grade Focus:** Balance between guided structure and independent creation, emphasize including 2-3 scientific facts accurately
- **5th Grade Extensions:** Encourage more complex narratives, multiple characters, cause-and-effect relationships in volcanic processes, and peer editing opportunities
- **For students needing extra support:** Provide simpler prompt templates, partner support, and focus on basic story elements
- **For advanced students:** Challenge them to include more complex volcano science, create longer narratives, and incorporate multiple volcanic processes
- **For ELL students:** Adjust reading level settings in TinkerTell, provide vocabulary support, and offer visual aids

Extensions and Follow-Up Activities

- Use printed stories with auto-generated comprehension questions for immediate reading assessment
- Create illustrations to accompany printed stories in art class
- Compile class stories into a "Volcano Adventures" anthology using TinkerTell's printout feature

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- Utilize offline mode on smartboard for collaborative story editing in future writing workshops
- Generate additional comprehension questions at different difficulty levels for differentiated follow-up work

Assessment

- Monitor student engagement with both the volcanic facts and story creation
- Review final stories in dashboard for inclusion of scientific facts
- Evaluate students' ability to customize and enhance AI-generated content
- Note which students might need additional support with either volcanic concepts or narrative writing

Notes for Teacher

- TinkerTell's Explore Together feature allows full lesson implementation even in classrooms without individual student devices - students write prompts offline and work with printed stories
- The automatic comprehension question feature provides instant differentiated assessment materials without additional preparation time
- Instant printouts ensure students have physical copies to take home or continue working on offline
- Some volcanoes (like Vesuvius, Kilauea, and Fuji) may be more popular choices; be prepared to encourage diversity in selections
- Save all stories to class library for future lessons on comparing/contrasting different volcanic features
- Explore Together works particularly well for collaborative editing activities and whole-class story development