

## Part 2

**Question 3 is based on both Passage A and Passage B.  
Read Passage B and re-read Passage A.**

### Passage B

*In this passage the writer describes a journey to the Kamchatka Peninsula, one of the most volcanically active regions on Earth.*

#### Russia's Frozen Inferno

Late last summer I spent a month studying volcanic eruptions with an international team that included French explorers, a German photographer called Carsten Peter, and a Russian guide named Feodor Farberov.

Carsten has spent his life documenting volcanoes with a camera. The closer he gets to the volcano, the happier he is. Not so Feodor, a 39-year-old, stolid, muscular, bearded mountaineer. He was born in a village at the foot of Klyuchevskoy and grew up with the dangers and discomforts of volcano research. 'Volcanic ash covered everything,' he recalled. 'Our water, our air, even our food tasted of sulphur.' Having seen 'enough eruptions for a lifetime,' Feodor now likes his mountains cold, quiet and covered with snow for skiing.

Bezymianny, one of the dozen volcanoes that make up the peninsula's group, was thought to be dormant until 1955, when it suddenly began to shake and swell and spew. On March 30th 1956, it exploded, enveloping the area in a shroud of ash. Within two days the ash reached Alaska, and two days later it was detected over the British Isles. The explosion flattened trees 15 miles away. Like the eruption of Mount St. Helens, it started with a giant avalanche, then blew out sideways, leaving a huge horseshoe-shaped crater.

We hiked through soft ash, sinking knee-deep at times, climbed heaps of shattered rock, and scrambled in and out of rocky gorges. Through wind and whipping clouds we climbed to the crater's broken rim and looked over. The inner cliffs dropped hundreds of feet to a circular channel, ringing a new mountain rising from the ruins of the old – a huge dome of smoking rock with its summit towering over us. On the floor of the channel sprawled a field of ice and snow, blackened by cinders and split by crevasses that gaped white in the enveloping mists. As we clung to the sharp edge, the dome threw down showers of rock from its steep sides. When large boulders hit the ice below, they left white wounds in the dark surface.

Another of Kamchatka's volcanoes is Mutnovsky. It is a complex structure with multiple active craters. In March 2000, steam blasts rocked one of the craters, and, within it, a glacier began to collapse. A large section of the glacier vanished, and a green acidic lake appeared in the middle of the broken ice. This kind of activity indicates that Mutnovsky is heating up and signals the possibility of even greater eruptions.

We set out just after dawn to follow a river up into that crater. Our path led across slopes of wet, slippery ash, past narrow openings in the rocks belching steam. Scrambling across the glacier, its surface a mass of dirty ice and cinders, we skirted the lake and climbed to a narrow divide. Standing on ice, we felt the hot breath of volcanic gases. Around us rose the steep crater walls lined with red and yellow deposits of sulphur. Slabs of glacier peeled off and crashed into the sour, pea-green water.

Carsten was ecstatic. When he and one of the other explorers decided to crawl under the glacier into a dark ice cave formed by a river of warm water, I followed. Feodor just shook his head.

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**Kenneth Baker**



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