“A volcano is a mountain that opens downward to a pool of molten rock below the surface of the earth.” “Volcanoes are formed when magma from within the Earth’s upper mantle works its way to the surface. At the surface, it erupts to form lava flows and ash deposits. Over time as the volcano continues to erupt, it will get bigger and bigger.”(1) Some volcanic eruptions can be very powerful and people can lose their life during the eruption. (2) The eruptions can occur when the pressure builds up and then the volcano explodes. (1) When a volcano erupts it can send tsunamis if the volcano is near water. (2) A volcano can be active for months before it erupts. When the volcano does erupt, usually it destroys everything in its path. (3) There are three types of volcanoes, active dormant and extinct. Active means the volcano has erupted not too long ago and will probably erupt again. Dormant means it hasn’t erupted in a while but there is a chance it will erupt again. Extinct means it erupted centuries and won’t erupt again. (1)

On the other side of the planet is an “obscure volcano in Indonesia called Mount Tambora.” (2) Indonesia is on the Ring of Fire which is home to 50% of the world’s active and dormant volcanoes. (1) Mount Tambora is 900 miles from the volcano Krakatau but Krakatau is more widely known because it erupted after the telegraph was invented. The volcano is right on an island called Sumbawa in the Java Sea. (2)

When Mount Tambora erupted it was “ten times more powerful than that of Krakatau.” (2)Before Mount Tambora erupted though, it was rumbling with activity for four months in 1815. (3)Then Tambora erupted that same year. (2) “Mount Tambora ejected so much ash and aerosols into the atmosphere that the sky darkened and the sun was blocked from view.” (3) The eruption was said to be the most destructive explosion in the past 10,000 years. (2)

1815 was a year called “The Year Without a Summer” (3) When Tambora blew up it shook the ground which sent tsunamis racing across the Java Sea. (2) There were towns with enough ash to cover and even collapse homes. (3) Some parts of the planet were chilled for months from the eruption. (2) The explosion was so immense that Earth’s average global temperature dropped 3 degrees Celsius. (3) “10,000 of the islands inhabitants died instantly from the explosion.” (2) In North America some crops died either from lack of sunlight or frost. Because crops couldn’t grow the price of food rose, and because the food was scarce people couldn’t feed their horses so they couldn’t get anywhere. (3)