

Life Returns to Mount St. Helens

by Andreas Pilar

On a visit to Mount St. Helens today, you see a quiet volcano and green forest. But what if you been there on May 18, 1980? You would have heard a powerful bang as the volcano erupted. You would have seen the entire north face of the volcano suddenly collapse. You would have seen hot gas, ash, and steam moving across the landscape at 200 miles an hour. The forest would have disappeared before your eyes.

Sequence is the order of events or ideas in time.

Definition ↓



Signal Words



▲ Mount St. Helens erupts.

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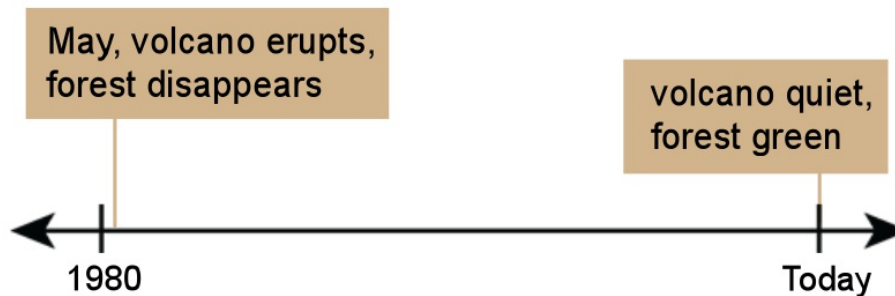
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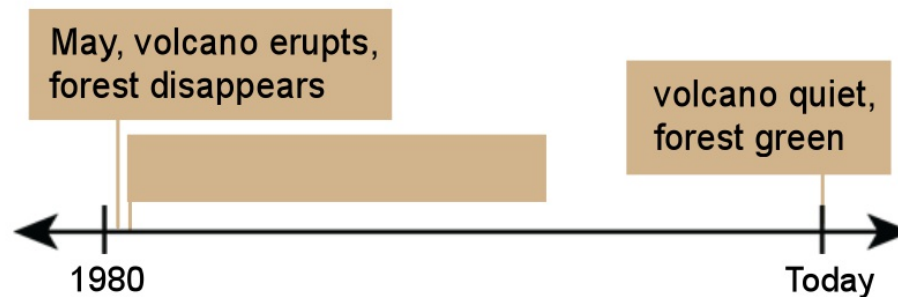
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Life Returns to Mount St. Helens (continued)

After the eruption, the area around Mount St. Helens seemed lifeless. A thick layer of gray ash covered the land. But scientists studying the destruction within weeks of the eruption quickly discovered that life had already returned.

Plants began to reappear as early as the summer of 1980. When the volcano erupted, snow still covered the ground. Some small trees and shrubs were protected beneath this snowpack. As the snow melted, these plants appeared. In other places, seeds carried by wind or animals had begun to sprout.



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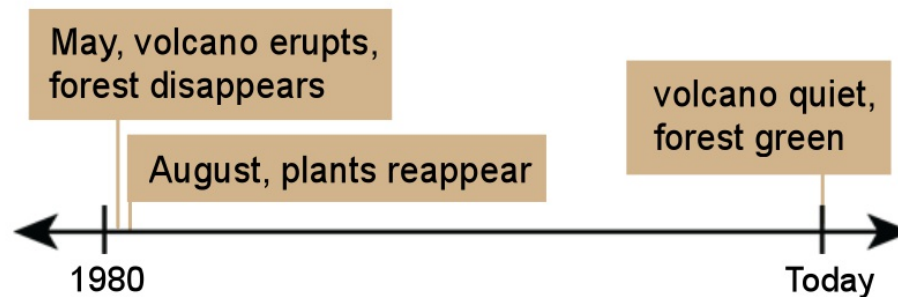


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