

Stranded! A Mostly True Story from Iceland

By: Aevan Thor Benediktsson

Illustrated: Anne Wilson

Synopsis: Based on a true story, this shares what happened when the author's grandfather and a friend were stranded on an active volcano off the coast of Iceland.

Suggested Reading Date: November 14th (the day that the eruption was first noted); April 7th (Geologist's Day); May (Washington State's Volcano Preparedness Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Explore the country of Iceland.
- Share information about the formation of Surtsey- there are links to diagrams and a video below.
- Discuss the emotions and feelings that the two men might have felt at different points in the story.
- Share survival skills and how the two men could have been better prepared.
- Talk the author's decision to add in information about "the wishing moment" and the one untrue detail. Why do they think he chose to do that?
- Share the video below about how Iceland is using geothermal energy. Discuss reasons that they are doing that.

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.aevanwritesbooks.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <https://anne-wilson.co.uk/>
- Discussion guide from the publisher:
https://www.barefootbooks.com/media/CMS/educators/2023/1023/Stranded_Discussion_Guide_041823.pdf
- Diagrams of the formation of Surtsey from 1963 – 1967 from map maker who works at The Icelandic Meteorological Office:
<https://ragnarheidar.tumblr.com/post/152856658831/formation-of-the-volcanic-island-surtsey-in-block>
- Archival footage of the eruption from encyclopedia Britannica:
<https://youtu.be/2LYsxUilo-o?si=VmNTmIYdua5nVGo9>
- Video about how Iceland uses geothermal energy from the BBC:
<https://youtu.be/3KepmDQfEHg?si=Luge0i7LH82G3OT>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Princess and the Warrior* by Duncan Tonatiah
- *Growing an Artist* by John Parra
- *Life on Surtsey: Iceland's Upstart Island* by Loree Griffin Burns

Created By: Paula Wittmann