



# RECREATING VULCAN'S FORGE

This activity introduces students to the explosive force of Vulcan's forge: a volcano! In Roman mythology, Vulcan served humans and the other gods by making useful items in his forge. People believed that Mount Etna was Vulcan's forge and that the smoke it emitted was because Vulcan was hard at work. Ironically, the people of Pompeii had just ended a festival in honor of Vulcan – a Vulcanalia, when Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the ancient city. This activity recreates the explosive force of a volcano.

## Activity

Place a bottle in the middle of a cake pan and mold soil or clay around it to look like a mountain. Use a funnel to pour baking soda into the bottle, and then add a squirt of dishwashing liquid. Mix vinegar with a few drops of red food coloring, and then pour the mixture into the bottle. Watch the volcano erupt!

### What You'll Need...

- Bottle with a narrow neck, like a salad dressing bottle
- Round cake pan
- Soil or clay
- Funnel
- ¼ cup baking soda
- Dishwashing liquid
- ¼ cup vinegar
- Red food coloring