Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.

Vocabulary Match: Islands and Volcanoes
Introduce the vocabulary before reading the passage. Read this passage with students, then have them complete the worksheet.

Have you ever wondered where islands come from? When you see an island, it is hard to imagine what is below the surface of the water. Some islands are formed from coral reefs. Other islands are made by underwater volcanoes. But how does an underwater volcano create an island?

Under the surface of the earth, the temperature is high enough to melt rock. This melted rock is bright red or orange. When the melted rock is still in the earth, it is called magma. When the melted rock escapes from the earth, it is called lava. Sometimes a crack forms in the bottom of the ocean. When this happens, magma leaks out into the water. The magma is now lava. The crack becomes an undersea volcano. The ocean water is cold. It cools the hot lava. Then the lava hardens into black rock.

Underwater volcanoes can erupt many times. Every time this happens, magma flows through the crack in the ocean floor. Over time, this slowly builds more rock on top of the already hardened rock. The pile of black rock slowly reaches the surface of the ocean. Then it becomes an island you can see above the surface of the water.

The Hawaiian Islands are volcanic islands. Each Hawaiian island is made up of rock from at least one volcano. Some of the big islands are made up of rock from more than one volcano. The Big Island, for example, was formed from five underwater volcanoes.

Islands can be formed in different ways. But all islands are completely surrounded by water.
Vocabulary Match:
Islands and Volcanoes

Match words with their meanings

Melted rock that is still in the earth ______ formed
Made harder ______ lava
Island created when a volcano erupts ______ hardened
Shaped ______ coral reef
Melted rock that comes out of a volcano ______ magma
An underwater rock-like structure ______ volcanic island

Write a sentence using the vocabulary word.

1. lava _______________________________________
2. hardened ___________________________________
3. coral reef ___________________________________
4. formed _____________________________________
5. magma _____________________________________
6. volcanic island _______________________________
Vocabulary Match: Tornadoes
Informational Text: Tornadoes

Introduce the vocabulary before reading the passage. Read this passage with students, then have them complete the worksheet.

Tornados are funnel clouds that spin, and they form during thunderstorms. They are very powerful storms and can cause a lot of damage. Scientists don’t know a lot about tornados, but they know a little bit.

Tornados are most common when it is warm outside. They can form when warm, moist air on the ground meets cold air in the sky. If there is any wind, a tornado can form. The wind in a tornado can blow as fast as 300 miles an hour!

Sometimes tornados stay in one place, but often they move. They can move very fast. Where a tornado moves is called its path. The tornado’s path is where the most damage happens. Tornados come very fast, and they are dangerous. But you can tell if one might be coming. If the sky is very dark and greenish, there might be a tornado coming. If there is large hail falling or there is a loud roar, there might be a tornado coming. Sometimes before a tornado hits, there isn’t any wind, and the air is very still.

Tornados are dangerous, but you can be safe during one. You can go into a basement or cellar until it passes. Or you can go into a room in the middle of your house. That is the safest place if you can’t go into a cellar or basement.

Some people find tornados interesting to study. Instead of staying inside during a storm, they go find the storms. They are called storm chasers. They try to see tornados so they can learn more about them and how they form. It’s a dangerous job, but storm chasers are experts. They have studied tornados and weather a lot. They know how to find tornados but not get caught in their path. For most of us, it’s best to stay inside during a tornado.
Vocabulary Match: Tornadoes

Match words with their meanings

Where the most damage happens: storm chasers
Slightly wet: cellar
Room or rooms under the house: tornado’s path
People who follow tornadoes to study them: moist
A person with special skill or knowledge: expert
A cone-shaped cloud that forms during thunderstorms: funnel cloud

Write a sentence using the vocabulary word.

1. tornado’s path

2. moist

3. cellar

4. storm chasers

5. expert

6. funnel cloud