Teacher's notes and answer key

Pele – the Fire Goddess on the Run

Subjects: English · Geography · Religious Studies | recommended from age 10 (A2/B1) | Video: 9:19 min

Answers B

1. From Kahiki, the distant ancestral homeland; the quarrel with her older sister, the sea goddess Nāmaka, made Kahiki unsafe (depending on the version a rivalry over a man or Pele's destructive power).

2. Pele pushed her digging stick Paoa into the ground, but Nāmaka raised the sea and put out the fire – Pele had to move on to the southeast.

3. At the crater of Haleakalā on Maui; in some versions Pele's body is broken, but her spirit survives.

4. In the Halemaʻumaʻu crater of the volcano Kīlauea on Hawaiʻi – high enough that the sea cannot reach it.

5. That anyone who takes lava rock home will be cursed; it was invented in the 20th century by a park ranger.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: Myth – Nāmaka puts out every pit / only there the sea can't reach / Pele creates new land / Pele lives there. Science – the older islands in the northwest are extinct, volcanic activity is now in the southeast / Kīlauea is one of the most active volcanoes on Earth / lava cools in the sea and the island grows / the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 10. In one version Pele's body is broken in battle.

Sources of the retelling: Hawaiian tradition (genealogies, mele chants, hula); link to present-day reverence in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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