Pele – the Fire Goddess on the Run

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



Watch the video
youtu.be/bmc_rhkSmtk

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. What do you know about volcanoes? Write down two things that happen during an eruption.

B · While watching

1. Where does Pele come from, and why did she have to flee?

2. What happened on every island where Pele dug a fire pit?

3. Where did the great battle of the sisters take place – and how did it end?

4. Where did Pele finally find her home, and why was it safe there?

5. Which modern “curse” does not come from the old tradition at all?

Useful words

volcano	Vulkan	canoe	Kanu
crater	Krater	pit	Grube
lava	Lava	island chain	Inselkette
to flee	fliehen	curse	Fluch

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	On every island Nāmaka puts out Pele's fire pit.
	Her youngest sister Hi‘iaka hatches from an egg.
	Pele grows up in Kahiki as a daughter of the earth goddess Haumea.
	Pele's spirit moves on to the volcano Kīlauea on Hawai‘i.
	The quarrel with her sister, the sea goddess Nāmaka, gets worse.
	Many Hawaiians say Pele still lives in the crater today.
	Pele leaves Kahiki by canoe, guided by her brother in shark form.
	The sisters fight a battle at Haleakalā on Maui.

D · Think and discuss

1. The flight from island to island fits the geology: Hawai‘i is the youngest island and still growing. What does that tell us about the people who told the myth?

2. For many Hawaiians, Pele is not an old legend but a living force. How should visitors respect that?

E · Myth and science

Compare how the myth and geology explain the same things.

	In the myth	In science
Why the islands were left one by one		
Why Kīlauea		
What lava flowing into the sea does		
Who watches the crater today		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a letter from Pele to her sister Nāmaka after arriving at Kīlauea (8–10 sentences).