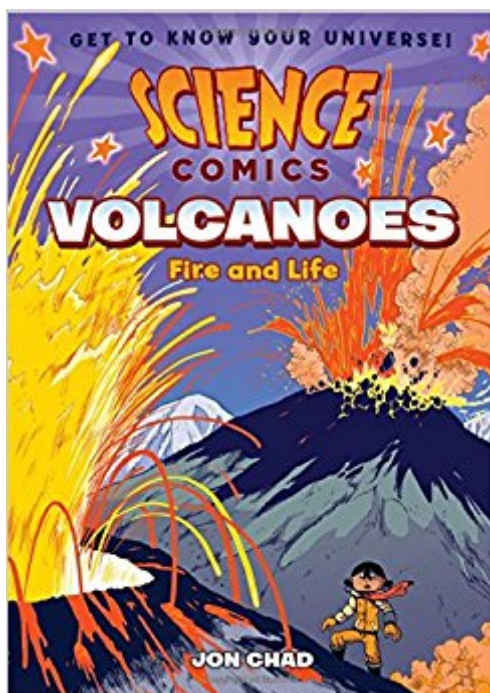


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# Science Comics: Volcanoes: Fire And Life



## Synopsis

Get ready to explore the depths of the ocean, the farthest reaches of space, and everything in between! Volcanic eruptions, vampire bats, feathered velociraptors, and more await you in SCIENCE COMICS. In a not-so-distant future our world is as cold as a frozen burrito. But can humanity save itself by harnessing a power that dwells inside the Earth? Explode into the world of geology in *Volcanoes: Fire and Life!* A lot of magic happens under the Earth's crust. Thanks to magma vents, shifting continental plates, and volcanic eruptions, we know that our planet is alive and in motion. Alongside Aurora, a young explorer, you'll learn that volcanoes are just one of the massively powerful forces at work on our planet. From catastrophic destruction to the creation of new land masses, volcanoes have made their mark on our amazing Earth.

## Book Information

Series: Science Comics

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: First Second; Reprint edition (November 15, 2016)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,520 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Earthquakes & Volcanoes](#) #640

[in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels](#) #1336 [in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-8 • Aurora, her siblings, and their teacher are fuel mappers, charged with the task of finding burnable material to provide heat for their community in a futuristic world where everything is frozen. On one expedition, they happen upon a library, and they scan all of the books onto their devices in order to preserve the information after the volumes have been burned. Aurora discovers a title about volcanoes, and she spends all night reading and learning everything she can

about them. Becoming completely obsessed, she shares a constant stream of facts with her skeptical fellow explorers, interrupting their search for fuel. Aurora is certain that volcanoes are the answer to the world's need for warmth, and despite discouraging comments from the others, she ultimately meets with success. Interwoven into the tale are factual pieces of this graphic novel, presented at a frenetic pace that matches the urgency of the characters' need to find a way to survive. The artwork is bold and engaging, cleverly intertwining the science and the more fantastical elements of the narrative. Some portions of the text have the potential to be confusing, as Chad switches between fact and fiction, but this should not deter readers. VERDICT This latest volume in the series offers an engaging way to introduce volcanoes to middle graders who prefer a comic book format to more traditional nonfiction. — Sarah Reid, Four County Library System, NY — This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Like having a Time Life Science Library in comic books. Which is awesome!" — Popular Science, praise for the Science Comics Series "Chad's well-drawn and clearly labeled diagrams in rich, saturated colors concisely explain key concepts, and vocabulary words are defined both in the text and a glossary. While the stylized cartoon figures and adventure narrative are an entertaining framework, the science fittingly occupies the center stage." — Booklist "The artwork is bold and engaging, cleverly intertwining the science and the more fantastical elements of the narrative." — School Library Journal

My 8 year old loves Science Comics. I found that the vocabulary was rich, and the writing engaging. They do a great job making this informational text read like a comic book to interest many readers. As a middle school teacher, I have included this in my classroom library as it is a quality read!

Pretty, pretty, pretty, pretty, pretty good.

Big success.

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer Scott The newest entry into the Science Comics line by First Second Books, is Volcanoes, those frightening, yet magnificent wonders of the world. Jon Chad, weaves a plot into this one, and although the educational value is always there (featuring a glossary and further readings section), the plot comes first, creating an open and closed graphic novel that is remarkably self-contained in its scope, but indispensable in the knowledge it imparts. Throughout

Science Comics: Volcanoes, people will become more familiar with both a statement on climate change, and the role volcanoes and geo-thermal heat play in the world. A tightly knitted story interlaces the mountainous (excuse the pun) amount of information about volcanoes and their types, forms, and effects. That this was a well-researched graphic novel is an understatement to say the least. It is the story, though that caught my interest right away, and what a story it is. Taking place in a second ice age, humans have died out into tribes that plunder the ruins of mankind in search of combustibles, the only means of generating heat and keeping warm. When young Aurora stumbles across the archives of an old library that the adventure starts to take a new twist. Enter the volcano, those mighty untapped sources of plasma, the fourth elemental form a solid with liquid like properties. Aurora tries to convince her fellow scroungers of the immense value that volcanic heat could bring to the tribe in their quest to survive. This well executed story brings out the science in a natural form; not seemingly thrown in for knowledge acquisition. It's this type of cutting edge story/science interplay that holds the reader intent through the course of Science Comics: Volcanoes. The artwork is notably European in its style, taking an almost eerie Moebius like effect on the people and environments they are involved in. The lines are clean and deft, well placed on the page and only a little confusing in its panelation notably when the most science is thrown at you en masse. Otherwise this is a clean read, with lots of momentum keeping it going. Despite some problems with the placement of information, the story reads easily, and it generally sticks to variants of the tried and true six panel layout. The speech balloons and expository dialogue (about Volcanoes, what else?) are for the most part, well placed and read well. Colors are washed and as faded as the sun in the story which no longer warms the earth the way it used to. All of this combined, give a palette to whet the senses. Combined, the artwork and the story make this a really good read. The no-frills artwork combined with a stellar background story actually makes learning about volcanoes fun. That is how science should be presented. After all if there is no pursuit, there is no gain. And the wealth of material within this graphic novel brings both areas with three on base and a home run. Having read other Science Comics titles, this would definitely be at the top of my list for quality, and informative purposes. A finely tuned blend of science and story put this miles above the previous titles and heralds a new beginning of sorts to the Science Comics line. For the budding geologist, or for the curious about nature's perhaps most destructive course, Science Comics: Volcanoes holds something for you.

Aurora lives in the future, on an Earth where the surface has completely frozen.

She's part of a learning group trying to find sources of fuel among the abandoned houses and cities, but she's concerned that their community needs a more dependable heat source. Jon Chad's vision is disturbing and strongly, starkly visualized. I was instantly submerged in this frozen world, sharing Aurora's concerns and worrying for her and her tribe. That made the information imparted even more potent and poignant. For me, it's interesting to learn about geology and volcanic activity, but for her, it could be a matter of life and death. Chad does a great job keeping both the story and the education moving along. As Aurora looks for a way to warm her planet, she discovers volcanoes and the corresponding nature of the earth, including its crust, magma, and plate movement. She tries to educate others, telling them (and the reader) about types of volcanoes and how they form, with plenty of diagrams and comparisons to things we're already familiar with. Everyone can understand the emotional metaphors used, when people getting mad at each other and blowing up are compared to different types of volcanic eruptions. Aurora is convinced she's found a new way to do things, but one of the obstacles she has to overcome is the resignation and anger of her older teacher, who's given up on a sense of discovery and is coping with the world as it is. That's a very empathic situation, particularly for older readers. A vocabulary section at the end reinforces the language used throughout the story. (The publisher provided an advance digital review copy. Review originally posted at ComicsWorthReading.com.)

Beautifully drawn, choc-full of science, and a really entertaining distopic story to tie everything together.

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