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The VOLCANO That Stopped Summer

Two hundred years ago, a volcano called Mount Tambora erupted.
All over the world, the weather became cold and stormy.
In North America, people called it “the year without a summer.”

My name _____

The Year With No SUMMER

In 1815, one volcano changed the weather around the world.

As You Read

Think about the different ways the volcano changed the weather.

Imagine that it's the first day of summer. For months, you've been looking forward to playing in the warm sunshine. You can't wait to go for a swim.

But you can't do that this year because it's snowing outside.

It sounds strange, but that's what

happened to kids across the United States in 1816! Instead of a sunny summer, they got a cold and gloomy season. How did this happen?

A Volcano Erupts

The story started in 1815, in the country of Indonesia, when a volcano called Mount Tambora **erupted**. It exploded and red-hot **lava** poured down its sides.

A cloud of dust and ash spreads through the sky.



A huge cloud of ash, gases, and dust shot into the air. The cloud was so big and thick, it blocked the sun. It kept light and heat from reaching the earth.

A Thick Cloud Spreads

For months, wind spread the cloud across the planet. As it spread, it changed the weather around the world.

This enormous cloud made the world's weather colder and stormier. The temperature dropped by about 5 degrees around the world.

A Colder World

In China, the cold temperatures killed trees, rice plants, and water buffalo. In the United States, the **crops** that farmers were growing froze in their fields. There wasn't much food for people to buy, so the food that was left became really expensive. Many people didn't get enough to eat.

Many people in the northeastern United States decided to leave their frozen homes behind and move west.

By 1816, the weather in the United States still hadn't warmed up. It snowed that June, and on the Fourth of July, it was so cold that people had to stay



inside and sit by their fireplaces. That's why people called 1816 the year without a summer.

A Surprise Invention

One good thing did come out of that cold year. Some people say the bicycle was invented because of the weather! Why?

Back then, most people rode horses, but horses had to eat. Their food had become really expensive, and people needed a way to get around that wouldn't cost so much.

So a man invented the bicycle! It was a new, faster way to travel, and you didn't need to feed it!

Finally, the dark cloud of ash and dust started to blow away. The sun shone again, and the weather went back to normal. The year without a summer was finally over!

—by Blair Rainsford