

PRIMARY THEMES, SUBTHEMES, AND INTERPRETIVE SERVICES HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Set of Primary Interpretive Themes

The approachable, active volcanoes of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park allow first-hand discovery and connection with one of the most fundamental forces of our world – in both its creative and destructive roles.

The journeys of the Hawaiian peoples, who continue to inhabit these rich and diverse lands, include cultural clashes, adaptations, and assimilations that provide enduring lessons about...

In Hawaii, active volcanism created an isolated home for a few immigrant species that gave rise to a rich yet fragile endemic biota; due to the accelerating change brought about by human actions,...

Kilauea, the home of Pele, is sacred to many Native Hawaiians: it is a place of birth and the well-spring of many spirits and forces; the active volcanism, the features of the terrain, and the...

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park provides an opportunity for people to experience the values of Hawaii's diverse wilderness; the park's designation as a World Heritage...

Note: Subthemes were written by the authors for the purpose of instruction only and may not represent actual subthemes used by the park.

EXAMPLE SUBTHEME

The unusually high approachability to the park's active volcanism not only affords opportunities for personal exploration, but for fundamental and detailed research that benefits us all.

EXAMPLE SERVICE

A subtheme like this lends itself to an **interactive computer station** that graphically demonstrates how fundamental volcanic research benefits other scientific inquiries with which visitors are familiar, such as studies into dynamic global change like plate tectonics or climate patterns like the El Niño/La Niña effect.

EXAMPLE SUBTHEME

Landforms created by the volcanic activity of Kilauea and Mauna Loa sensationally demonstrate the role of volcanism in shaping and reshaping the Earth's surface, and deepens our understanding of other planetary bodies.

EXAMPLE SERVICE

A subtheme like this lends itself to an **illustrated program** that shows varying landscapes of the Earth, other planets, and moons. Inspiring music might accompany the imagery, followed by an interpreter-led discussion of the similarities and differences in these landscapes, and the processes we believe underlie their formation.

EXAMPLE SUBTHEME

Earthquakes, tsunamis, ash and debris fallout from eruptions – consequences of volcanic activity – have at times been disastrous for humans, but have also provided opportunities for people to thrive.

EXAMPLE SERVICE

A subtheme like this lends itself to a **guided hike** across the flank of Kilauea, on a trail that transects a place of cultural significance to Native Hawaiians. The interpreter may draw visitors' attention to plant species that thrive in this environment, then discuss the connections of human populations to this place.

EXAMPLE SUBTHEME

A civilization-enriching aspect of science is introducing and testing new ideas: Mauna Loa and Kilauea exemplify the theory that volcanic activity above a fixed hot spot in the Earth's interior built the Hawaiian Islands, a relatively new idea.

EXAMPLE SERVICE

A subtheme like this lends itself to an **interpretive talk**. Starting with the idea that the Hawaiian Islands are probably the best example on Earth of hot-spot volcanism, the interpreter might expand into procedures of scientific inquiry (hypotheses, testing, improved hypotheses), and end by exploring how science informs and influences society.

ETC.