The Wrath of Mataoho / Te Hihiri o Mataoho

General Information:

- Te Pane o Mataoho or Mangere Mountain erupted about 20,000 years ago. A piece of wood found from beneath the lava flow was carbon dated and found to have died about 20,000 years ago

- It is 106m above sea level and is one of the largest scoria cones of the 48 volcanic cones and craters in Auckland's volcanic field. It is also the most preserved cone in the area

- It probably erupted in the following sequence:

1. A bubble of magma started forcing its way through the crust;
2. This magma met ground water;
3. Violent explosions took place and a large explosion crater formed with a low tuff ring;
4. Fire fountaining followed with lava bombs blasting up into the air and forming steep mounds;
5. Large amounts of lava came to the surface and flowed outwards through a breach in the crater; heated up and semi-fluid lava pushed upwards forming a tholoid in the middle of the main crater;
6. New vents blasted out more scoria within the crater; and
7. One vent in the crater rim erupted very violently to produce a second, very steep crater

- Lava fields from Te Pane o Mataoho spread in all directions except the south-east. They cover about 5 square kilometres. Lava caves and tunnels are found in and around the mountain as well as volcanic ash which spread in all directions except the south for about 8 kilometres. The soil became very fertile and was used for extensive gardening

Images:

Vocabulary:

lava flow	Hot, melted rock that flows from a volcano or other opening in the surface of Earth
carbon dating	A technique used by Scientists to answer many questions about the past and pinpoint when it happened to understand how and why it happened
scoria	
volcanic	Anything of, related to or produce by a volcano
magma	Hot, melted rock material within the Earth
crust	Earth's surface layer of solid rock
explosion crater	
tuff ring	
fire fountaining	
lava bombs	
breach	
tholoid	
vent	

lava caves

lava tunnels

volcanic ash