EXPLORING COUNTRIES

# Iceland

BLASTOFF! 5 READERS

Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents:

**Blastoff! Readers** are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

**Level 1** provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

**Level 2** offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high-frequency words.

**Level 3** advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.

**Level 4** builds reading stamina by providing more text per page, increased use of punctuation, greater variation in sentence patterns, and increasingly challenging vocabulary.

**Level 5** encourages children to move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" by providing even more text, varied writing styles, and less familiar topics.

Whichever book is right for your reader, Blastoff! Readers are the perfect books to build confidence and encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

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# Where Is Iceland?

## Did you know?

The northernmost points of Iceland nearly touch the Arctic Circle. This means the sun hardly dips below the horizon in June. In December, the sun is only up for a few hours each day.

Iceland is a rugged island of tall mountains and deep **fjords**. A part of Europe, the country sits in the chilly Atlantic Ocean. The Greenland Sea touches its northern shores. Across the Denmark **Strait** to the northwest is Iceland's nearest neighbor, Greenland. To the east lies Norway, and the United Kingdom is a short flight to the southeast.

Spanning 39,769 square miles (103,000 square kilometers), Iceland is a small country. Its capital and largest city is Reykjavík. This is the northernmost capital city in the world.

**Did you know?**

In the spring of 2010, Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull spewed lava and ash into the sky. The eruption made air travel so dangerous that many European airports had to be shut down.

**Eyjafjallajökull**

In some places, Iceland lives up to its name. **Glaciers** top large areas of the rocky landscape. **Arctic** winds howl through the dark, snowy winters. However, Iceland is also a land of fire. The island rests atop the **Mid-Atlantic Ridge**. This makes Iceland a hot spot for **volcanic eruptions** and mild earthquakes.

## fun fact

Iceland has the largest number of hot springs in the world. Some hot springs shoot water into the air. They are called geysers after the Icelandic word *geysir*.

Iceland's landscape is green in the summer, but it has few trees. Clear lakes, sparkling waterfalls, and jagged fjords add to its beauty. The climate does not change much throughout the year. Winters are mild and summers are cool. The average temperature in the capital city is 40 degrees Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius).

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