

*This is a myth which Rachel, Year 5, wrote to explain why Mount Etna erupts.*



A long, long time ago, in the country of Sicily, there lived a tribe. The tribe was named after their village, Etnaby, they were named the Etnabians. They lived in the foothills of Mount Etna. Their life was a quiet yet hardworking one since the men hardly ever came home from farming the fields.

There was great confusion when, one day, all the men came rushing to the village. “Flee, flee for there is a monster, a truly terrifying beast!” These words only made the confusion greater so that when they spotted the beast all their plans of running away fell to pieces. The beast topped the hill and everyone screamed. The beast’s hair was too white to look at, its claws flashed like eagles’ talons. From its mouth came torrents of white-hot flames. It charged towards the village, snorting. Houses crumbled in his path and the people’s fear grew far greater than anything they had ever felt before.

Meanwhile, up above, the god Ethan watched this with eyes of stone and decided to do something about it. He came down in front of the beast and using all of his strength, which until now he had been gathering up, pushed. Erupting from his hands like two waterfalls going straight out and forward came jets of water. Gradually, like a stubborn mule, the beast’s fire was put out as Ethan, still going strong, forced it towards Mount Etna.

The beast started going backwards up Mount Etna. Ethan was demanding all of his attention so the beast did not realise where it was until it made one fatal step backwards. All of a sudden the beast vanished over the top of Mount Etna. It disappeared into the seemingly bottomless abyss below.

Until this day, and maybe for many years to come, the beast is still there feeling very angry. Every now and again, to prove how angry he is, you can see the flames from his mouth erupting high into the sky above Mount Etna.

