Volcano Boarding Anyone?  
By Meera Dolasia on 03/22/2012

While snowboarding was once considered an exciting sport practiced only by an elite few, today it is one even young kids seem to master quite easily. It is therefore no wonder that adventurers seeking an adrenalin rush are resorting to a new thrill - volcano boarding!

As the name implies, it entails getting to the top of an active volcano and then hurtling down at speeds of up to 50mph, aboard a sled designed especially for volcanic soil. Made of plywood it has a metal bottom and also a thin sheet of plastic stuck to the back. Thanks to the high speeds at which the riders come down the volcanic surface, the plastic usually burns off and has to be replaced after every couple of runs. **STOP POINT**

As you can imagine, the 1,340-foot descent on the sled is not for the faint of heart. Volcano rocks are light and extremely sharp and it is easy for a rider to tumble off especially, if he/she is going down too fast. Enthusiasts therefore have to wear special suits, kneepads and protective eyewear. Though most volcano boarders sit on the sleds, some daredevils come down the entire run standing!

The tour organizers maintain that they have incurred no major injuries since they began offering the sport in 2005. According to them, the biggest danger a rider faces is tumbling onto the black volcanic sand and collecting a few bruises along the way.

**Vocabulary**  
Write two words you didn’t know the meaning of before you read the article and their meanings.