

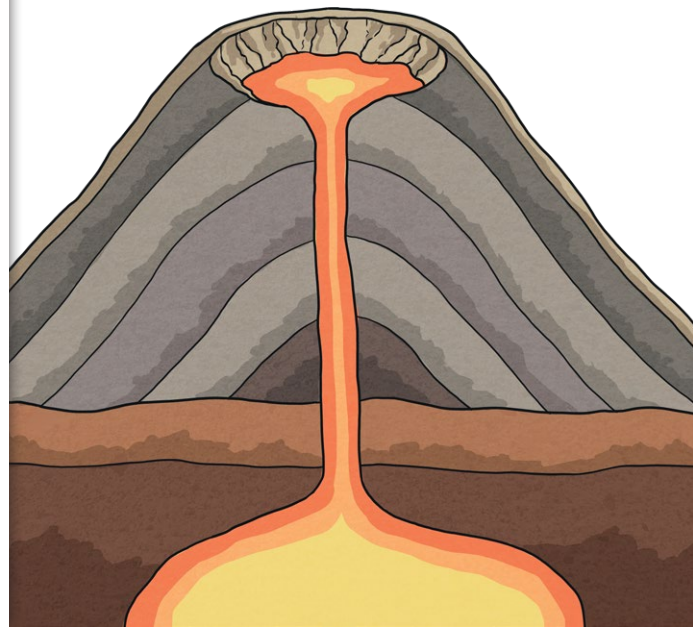
Volcanoes

What is a Volcano?

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface that leads downwards to a pool of molten rock. They often look like a hill or mountain.

Rock deep in the Earth's crust gets extremely hot and melts to form magma. This makes up the mantle, which mixes and moves to create pressure. When this leaks out onto the surface, this is called a volcano.

Over time, as more magma leaks out, the volcano becomes bigger and bigger. The magma from the Earth's crust that erupts from a volcano is called lava.



Fascinating Fact

There are volcanoes on other planets. The largest volcano in our solar system is on Mars and is called Olympus Mons.



Types of Volcanoes

Volcanoes are categorised into three types: **active**, **dormant** or **extinct**.

A volcano is classed as **active** if it has erupted in the last 10,000 years or has had some kind of activity meaning it may erupt.

A **dormant** volcano has not erupted in the last 10,000 years but has potential to erupt in the future.

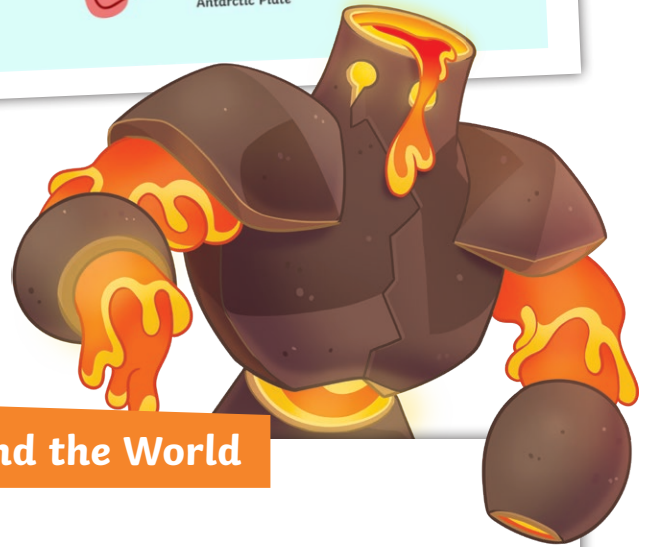
When a volcano is **extinct**, this means it has not erupted in the last 10,000 years and is unlikely to in the future.

Ring of Fire

This is an area of the Pacific Ocean that is shaped like a horseshoe.

The Ring of Fire has more than 450 volcanoes. It stretches along the western edge of the South and North American continents, across the Pacific Ocean, through Japan and southwards towards New Zealand. It covers a distance of around 25,000 miles (40,000km) in total.

Around 75% of the world's volcanoes and 90% of the world's earthquakes are located within the Ring of Fire.



Famous Volcanoes around the World



Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji

Located in Japan, Mount Fuji last erupted in 1707, so is considered an active volcano. It is the highest mountain in Japan at 3776m (12,388ft) high and is considered by many to be sacred.

Mauna Loa

Located on the island of Hawaii, Mauna Loa is an active shield volcano which last erupted in 2022. It is estimated to have been erupting for the last 700,000 years.



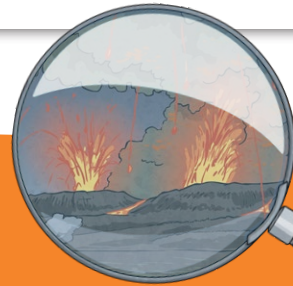
Mauna Loa



Mount Vesuvius

Mount Vesuvius

Located in Italy, this volcano is probably best known for its eruption in AD 79, when it completely buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum with lava and ash that flowed for more than 24 hours. The last time Vesuvius erupted was in 1944.



Fascinating Fact

If you study volcanoes, you are called a volcanologist.

Investigation Time

Have a go at finding out some other fascinating volcano facts, either by doing your own research or finding the information to answer these questions:

Are there different types of volcanoes?

What other famous volcanoes can you find out facts about?

Other than Earth and Mars, on which other planets can you find volcanoes?

What other fun facts can you find out about volcanoes?