

Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Key Vocabulary

volcano	An opening or rupture in the Earth's crust through which lava, ash and gases escape
magma	A molten substance beneath the Earth's crust.
lava	Molten, hot rock flowing from a volcano.
crater	The mouth of a volcano.
eruption	A volcano erupts when it shoots out lava.
molten	Hot, melted rocks.
Earthquake	A violent movement of parts of the Earth's surface.
Epicentre	The point on the Earth's surface at the centre of an earthquake.
Earth's crusts	The surface layer covering our planet. There are 2 types of crust: oceanic and continental.
Earth's mantle	Under the crust, is the mantle forming about half of the Earth.
Earth's core	The core is at the centre of the Earth. There is a solid inner core and outer liquid core of molten metal.

How are volcanoes formed?

Magma rises through cracks or weaknesses in the Earth's crust. Pressure builds up inside the Earth. When this pressure is released, magma explodes to the surface causing a volcanic eruption. The lava from the eruption cools to form new crust. Over time, the rock builds up and a volcano forms.

What causes an earthquake?

An earthquake is the shaking and vibration of the Earth's crust due to movement of the Earth's plates. Earthquakes can happen along any type of plate boundary. Earthquakes occur when tension is released from inside the crust. Plates do not always move smoothly alongside each other and sometimes get stuck. When this happens pressure builds up. When this pressure is eventually released an earthquake tends to occur.

FAMOUS VOLCANOES

- Mount Vesuvius, near Naples, Italy
- Krakatoa, Indonesia
- Mount St. Helens, Washington, USA
- Mount Tambora, Indonesia
- Mauna Loa, Hawaii
- Eyjafjallajökull, Iceland

