

Forestdale Primary School – Geography

Volcanoes

What should I already know?

How Can You Compare Different Places?

Physical Geography

The natural features of a place or environment.

- oceans and coastlines
- rivers and lakes
- mountains and volcanoes
- flora and fauna
- land-form

Human Geography

Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.

- country/region boundaries
- buildings, roads and land use
- changes to river courses
- language/signs
- religion, government, art and music

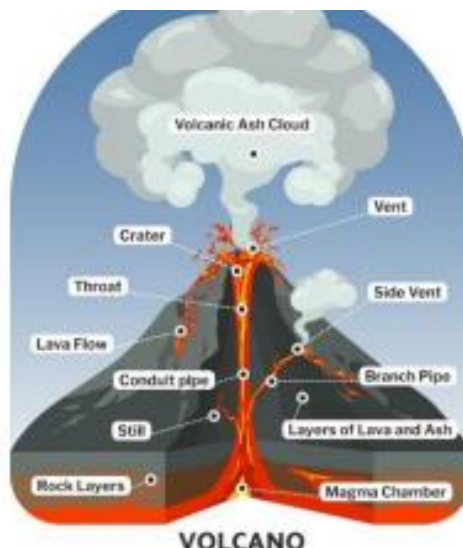
DID YOU KNOW:

Volcanoes can have a very serious effect on the lands and people around them when they erupt.

- Buildings are destroyed.
- People are killed and made homeless.
- Clouds of ash cover plants, making them inedible.
- Poisonous gases kill people and animals.
- Dust causes illnesses to survivors.
- Dark skies, severe winds and heavy rains may follow an eruption for months afterwards.

HOW ARE VOLCANOES FORMED?

1. Magma rises through cracks or weaknesses in the Earth's crust.
2. Pressure builds up inside the Earth.
3. When this pressure is released, e.g. as a result of plate movement, magma explodes to the surface causing a volcanic eruption.
4. The lava from the eruption cools to form new crust.
5. Over time, after several eruptions, the rock builds up and a volcano forms.



Volcanoes

- Volcanoes are made when pressure builds up inside the earth. This affects the earth's crust causing magma to sometimes erupt through it.
- Active volcanoes have erupted in the last 10 000 years.
- Dormant volcanoes haven't erupted in the last 10 000 years but may erupt again.
- Extinct volcanoes aren't expected to erupt again.



THE EFFECT OF VOLCANOES ON PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

One in 10 people in the world live within 'danger range' of an active volcano.

People can get used to living near a volcano, but it is always a little dangerous. Scientists have estimated that at least 200,000 persons have lost their lives as a result of volcanic eruptions during the last 500 years. People set up homes on the slopes of volcanoes because of the rich, fertile soil produced.

Vocabulary

Volcano	an opening in the Earth's crust through which lava, volcanic ash, and gases escape.
Magma	Molten rock beneath the surface of the earth.
Lava	Magma which has reached the surface through a volcanic eruption. Streams of liquid rock flow from the crater.
Crater	A steep-sided, usually circular dip formed by an explosion.
Ash	Fine particles of rock dust blown from an explosion vent.
Fissures	Elongated fractures or cracks on the slopes of a volcano.
Eruption	The process by which solid, liquid and gaseous materials are ejected into the earth's atmosphere and onto the earth's surface by volcanic activity.
Ring of Fire	The regions of mountain-building earthquakes and volcanoes which surround the Pacific Ocean. Over half the world's volcanoes arise in the Ring of Fire.
Earthquake	A sudden violent shaking of the ground.
Tectonic Plates	Large edges of the earth's crust that are divided into huge slabs. These plates fit together like a jigsaw and when they move, they cause earthquakes.

By the end of this unit you will know:

That there are different types of volcanoes and that they are created through the Earth's tectonic plates. You should know about a case study of a volcano in Heimaey and its effect on the island.

You should also be able to explain why people live near active volcanoes and choose to remain there despite eruptions.

DID YOU KNOW:

Movement of tectonic plates has formed large mountain ranges like the Himalayas and Andes.