



Violent Volcanoes

What Is a Volcano?

There are over 1,500 active volcanoes in the world. A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust, usually in a mountain.

Deep underneath the Earth's crust there are lots of explosive gases. There is also a kind of rock which is so hot that it has become liquid. This is called magma. When this magma comes out of the opening and spills on the Earth's surface, it cools down and becomes solid rock. If this happens lots of times, more hard rock is formed on top of the other layers and the volcano gets bigger and bigger.

Volcanoes come in lots of different shapes. Some are flat, some are like cones and some are domed, like an igloo. Volcanoes do not just occur on land either. They can be found on the ocean floor and under ice too! We currently know of 80 volcanoes that are at the bottom of the sea.

Q1: What is the name of the hot liquid beneath the Earth's crust?

Circle your answer.

volcano

explosive gas

solid rock

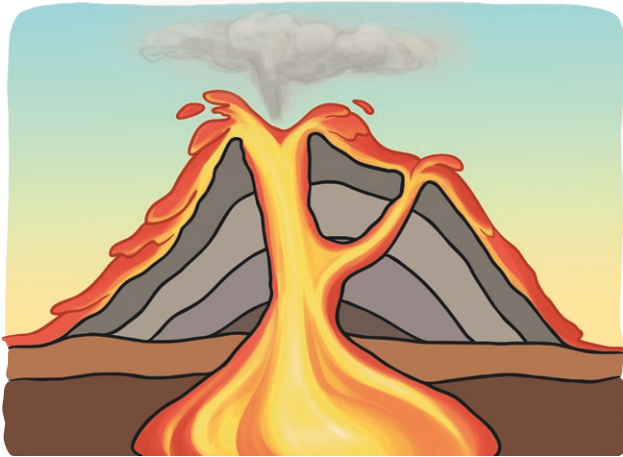
magma

Q2: How many volcanoes do we currently know about on the ocean floor?



Q3: Why did the author use subheadings in this text? Tick **two** answers.

- ☐ To show that they are a good writer.
- ☐ To tell the reader what that section is about.
- ☐ To make some of the text bold.
- ☐ To help the reader to find information quickly.



Why Do Volcanoes Erupt?

The Earth's crust is made up of huge pieces of rock, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes, these pieces of rock move around. When they do, they rub together and cause friction. This is like shaking a bottle of fizzy pop. Magma and gases build up and cause lots of pressure.

When the pressure gets too much, the gases, hot ash and magma shoot up through the hole in the Earth's crust and spill over. This is called an eruption. During an eruption, red hot lava flows down the mountain and destroys everything in its path – including full forests and towns. It is no surprise then that the word 'volcano' is named after 'Vulcan', who was the god of fire in Roman times. When a volcano erupts it can look like fire is shooting into the sky.

Q4: What was the name of the Roman god of fire?



Q5: What does the word 'eruption' mean?



Q6: Why do you think the author described the Earth's crust as like a 'jigsaw puzzle'?



Interesting Volcano Facts

- Volcanoes can be called 'active', 'dormant', or 'extinct'. Active means they erupt often. Dormant means they do not usually erupt but they could – it is like they are sleeping. Extinct means that they are unlikely to ever erupt again.
- One of the most famous volcanoes in the world is called Mount Vesuvius. When it erupted in the year 79AD (over 2000 years ago), it completely buried the nearby city of Pompeii.
- The loudest volcanic eruption ever recorded was when a volcano named Krakatoa erupted in 1883. The eruption was so loud that it could be heard 3,000 miles away.
- The last recorded large volcanic eruption was by a volcano called Calbuco, which erupted in Chile on 30th April 2015, but many smaller volcanic eruptions happen every year.



Q7: Why did the author describe dormant volcanoes as 'like they are sleeping'?

Q8: Put the following events in the order that they happened.
The first one has been done for you.

- ☒ 1 Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city of Pompeii.
- ☐ The Calbuco volcano erupted in Chile.
- ☐ The loudest ever volcanic eruption happened.



Q9: Do you think that a volcano will erupt in the next ten years?
Explain your answer.