

Volcanoes

What are volcanoes?

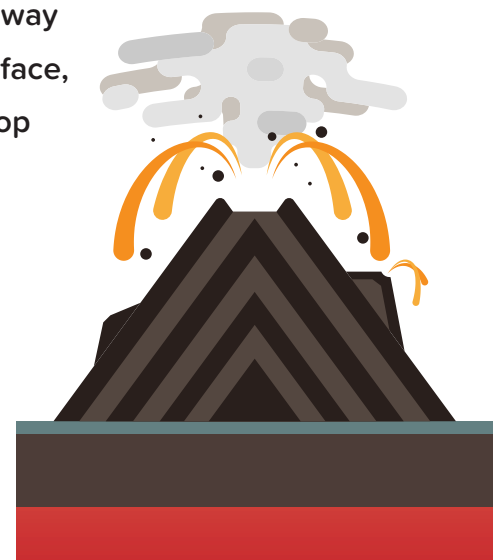
A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface. Magma, hot ash and gases can escape through the opening. Some volcanoes look like mountains and have very steep sides. Sometimes their sides aren't steep at all. They may just look like a small hill. The volcanoes with the steep sides are usually the most dangerous.

Scientists put volcanoes into three main categories: active, dormant or extinct. An active volcano is one that has erupted recently and is likely to erupt again. Dormant volcanoes have not erupted for a very long time but may erupt in the future. Extinct volcanoes are not expected to erupt in the future.

There are 1,500 active volcanoes on Earth. Most of these volcanoes are on land, but some are at the bottom of the ocean. These are harder to discover.

What causes volcanoes?

The ground that we stand on is made from solid rock. Beneath this solid rock, the temperature is much hotter. Rocks become liquid. This liquid rock is called molten rock. The molten rock mixes with gases to form magma. Magma flows deep beneath the Earth's surface. Sometimes magma pushes its way upwards to the surface of the Earth. When it gets to the surface, it erupts through the top of a volcano. The opening at the top of the volcano is called the crater. When the magma erupts through the crater, gases are released. The molten rock flows down the side of the volcano. This is known as lava. Ash clouds often form. The ash can be carried in the air for many kilometres.



What are the dangers?

Volcanoes can be extremely dangerous. Sometimes they erupt without any warning. The lava will destroy anything in its path. The ash clouds can be the most dangerous. Ash can fall for miles around and bury buildings and cars. Breathing in volcanic ash is bad for your health.

Scientists monitor volcanoes very carefully. They can detect movement in the ground. They also monitor the gases that are released. They can warn people when they think volcanoes are about to blow. This gives people time to evacuate if they need to.



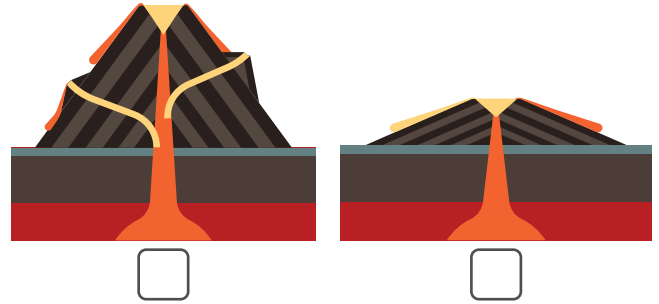
Questions

03

- 1 There are three main things that come out of a volcano.

These include magma and hot ash. What is the third thing?

- 2 Tick the volcano that is likely to be the most dangerous. (tick)



- 3 Match each volcano type to its description.

active volcano •

• a volcano that is not expected to erupt in the future

dormant volcano •

• a volcano that has erupted recently and is likely to erupt again

extinct volcano •

• a volcano that has not erupted for a very long time but may erupt in the future

- 4 How many active volcanoes are there on Earth?
-

- 5 What is the liquid rock that is below the surface of the earth called?
-

6 What is the crater? (tick)

- ☐ The area around a volcano.
- ☐ A large underground pool of magma.
- ☐ The opening at the top of a volcano.
- ☐ The tube that magma travels through to get to the surface.

7 What is the name given to magma once it flows from a volcano?

8 Why are ash clouds often more dangerous than lava? (tick)

- ☐ They destroy everything in their path.
- ☐ They affect a much larger area.
- ☐ It is invisible.
- ☐ People die instantly if they breathe in volcanic ash.

9 What does the word 'evacuate' mean? (tick)

- ☐ move away from a dangerous place
- ☐ prepare for a dangerous event
- ☐ hide in a shelter
- ☐ watch something from a distance

10 The text is split up by three key questions:

What are volcanoes?
What causes volcanoes?
What are the dangers?

Which statement is true about these questions? (tick)

- ☐ They are the headlines.
- ☐ They are the headings.
- ☐ They are the paragraphs.
- ☐ They are the subheadings.

Score:

Answers

A

- 1 There are three main things that come out of a volcano. These include magma and hot ash. What is the third thing?

1500

- 2 Tick the volcano that is likely to be the most dangerous.



- 3 Match each volcano type to its description.

active volcano		a volcano that is not expected to erupt in the future
dormant volcano		a volcano that has erupted recently and is likely to erupt again
extinct volcano		a volcano that has not erupted for a very long time but may erupt in the future

- 4 How many active volcanoes are there on Earth?

1500

- 5 What is the liquid rock that is below the surface of the earth called?

molten rock or magma

- 6 What is the crater?



The opening at the top of a volcano.

- 7 What is the name given to magma once it flows from a volcano?

lava

- 8 Why are ash clouds often more dangerous than lava?



They affect a much larger area.

- 9 What does the word 'evacuate' mean?



move away from a dangerous place

- 10 The text is split up by three key questions:
What are volcanoes?
What causes volcanoes?
What are the dangers?
Which statement is true about these questions?



They are the subheadings.