

Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Overview of unit / topic

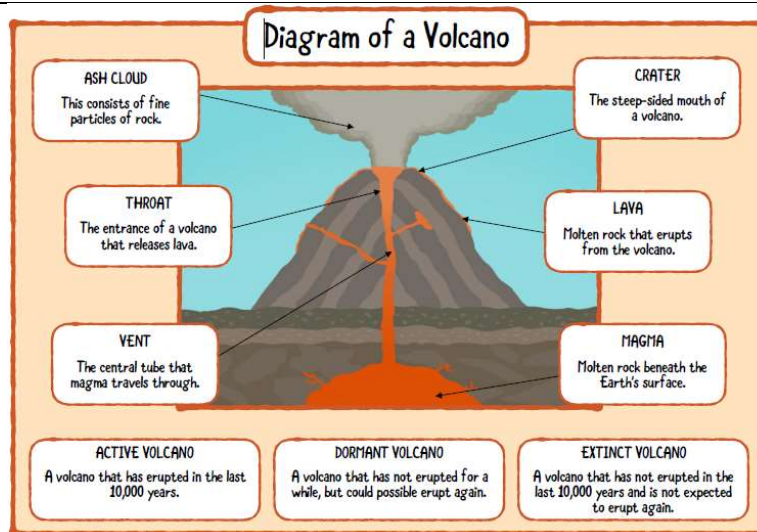
In this topic, children will explore one of the most fascinating phenomena in the world – Volcanoes and Earthquakes. They will learn where in the world volcanoes are found before looking how and why volcanoes erupt.

Key Questions

What is a volcano?
Where are some famous volcanoes located?
What happens when a volcano erupts?
Why does a volcano erupt?
What are the different parts of a volcano?
What are the three main types of volcano?
What is a tectonic plate?

Key Vocabulary

Volcano	A mountain or a hill that has a vent through which lava, gas and rocks erupt	Earth's crust	The outermost layer of Earth
Crater	The steep-sided mouth of a volcano	Mantle	The thickest layer of earth
Throat	The entrance of a volcano that releases lava	Outer core	The outer core is liquid
Magma	Molten rock beneath the earth's surface	Inner core	The inner core is a solid metal ball
Ash	Fine particles of rock blown from a volcano	Seismographs	A machine which records the motion of ground during an earthquake
Vent	An opening at the earth's surface	Richter scale	Measure the size of an earthquake
Conduit	An underground passage magma travels through	Mercalli scale	People's observations during an earthquake
Lava	Molten rock that erupts from the volcano		
Flank	The side of a volcano. The summit is the highest point		
Erupt	To become active and eject out lava, gas and rocks		
Dormant	A volcano which has not erupted for a while but could erupt again.		
Active	A volcano which has erupted in the last 10,000 years		
Extinct	A volcano which has not erupted in the last 10,000 years and is not expected to erupt again.		



Key Knowledge and Understanding: What will we be learning about in this unit / topic?

Children will:

- Explore what happens when a volcano erupts
- Explore the features of a volcano
- Identify three main types of volcano
- Understand what tectonic plates and the ring of fire is
- Will compare a volcanic area to non-volcanic area
- Explore life in volcanic areas