

Key Vocabulary

Volcano	An opening or rupture in the Earth's crust through which lava, ash and gases escape
Mantle	Molten rock between the Earth's crust and the core
Tectonic plates	Pieces of the Earth's crust
Ring of fire	The area of the Earth where volcanoes are most likely found
Earthquake	A violent movement on the Earth's surface
Lava	Molten rock coming out of a volcano
Magma	Molten rock in the mantle
Pyroclastic flow	Poisonous gasses and rock flow after an eruption
Eruption	The ejection of rock and gas from a volcano
Crater	The mouth of a volcano
Crust	The outer layer of the earth

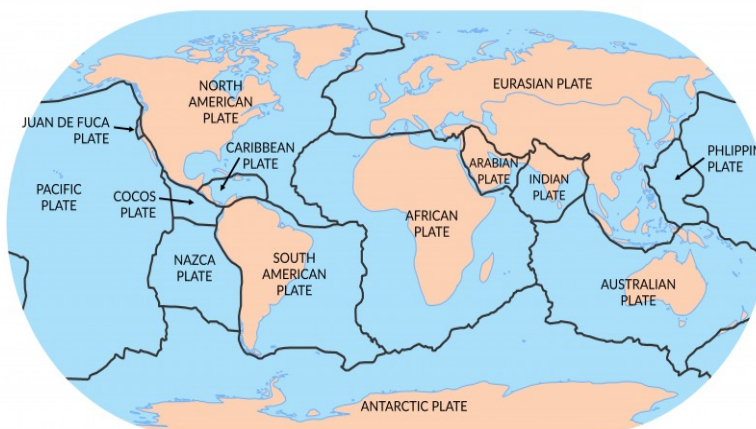
Key Skills

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Understand and use a widening range of geographical terms.
- Use maps, globes, atlases and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and key features.

Human and physical

- Identify physical and human features of a place.



Tectonic plates

Key Facts

- A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface.
- Usually found in a mountain, the opening allows gas, hot magma and ash to escape from beneath the Earth's crust.
- The word "volcano" comes from the Roman name "Vulcan". Vulcan was the Roman God of fire!
- Volcanoes are often found at meeting points of "tectonic plates".
- These plates are pieces of the Earth's surface that fit together just like a jigsaw puzzle.
- Approximately 350 million people live within "danger range" of an active volcano. That means that around one in 20 people live in an area at risk of volcanic activity.
- Volcanoes are classified as active, dormant or extinct.
- Volcanoes can be a variety of shapes. These geographical wonders come in various shapes and sizes, but there are two main types - composite volcanoes, which are cone-shaped with steep slopes, and shield volcanoes, which are wide with gentle slopes.
- Magma is the name given to hot liquid rock *inside* a volcano. Once it leaves the volcano, it's known as lava.
- Volcanoes don't just occur on land. They can be found on the ocean floor and under ice caps, too!
- The world's largest active volcano is Mauna Loa in Hawaii.
- In A.D. 79, the Italian town of Pompeii was destroyed and buried by a volcano called Mount Vesuvius.

Key Questions

- What is a volcano?
- How are volcanoes formed?
- What are the features of a volcano?
- Where are volcanoes found?
- How are earthquakes made?
- What are the names of some famous volcanoes?
- What impact does a volcano and earthquake have on the earth?

Links to other Learning

- Year 2 - Geography
Describe the key features of a place
- Year 3 - Geography
Why do so many people choose the Mediterranean for their holiday?
- Year 4 - Geography
To find out about some of the key geographical features of each continent.
- Year 5 - Geography
Explain how land use patterns may change over time
- KS3 - Science
The structure of the world



Erupting volcano

Mount Vesuvius



Links to other Subjects

- Science
- Forces and magnets
- Geography
- To know the famous landmarks in Italy
- History
- The Romans
- Art and Design
Look at the work of Leonardo da Vinci as a famous Italian artist.
- English - Newspaper report- Recount based on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius



The ring of fire