

# Volcanoes

A volcano erupts.



The Pacific 'Ring of Fire'  
(From Youtube)

What is a volcano?

A volcano is an opening in the surface of the Earth in which gas, magma and ash can escape. They come in many different shapes and sizes and can be very dangerous.

Where are volcanoes?

Volcanoes are normally found close to where tectonic plates meet. Tectonic plates are huge slabs of rock that make up the Earth's crust. Many are around the Pacific Ocean which is called 'Ring of Fire'. However some volcanoes are in the middle of tectonic plates such as in Hawaii and Iceland.

What are the different types of volcanoes?

Volcanoes can be **active** (could erupt at any time), **dormant** (hasn't erupted for a long time) or **extinct** (very unlikely to erupt again). Some volcanoes are tall like a cone and other volcanoes are wider and flatter like a shield.

Are volcanoes dangerous?

Volcanoes can be very dangerous if people are close by when they erupt. Many people have been killed in history by volcanoes. A long time ago in Italy (79 A.D) the volcano Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed many towns such as Pompeii.

## Warm up.

1. What type of text is this? Fiction or non fiction?  
Circle the correct answer.
2. What is the title?
3. Find and copy a subheading.
4. How many subheadings are there altogether?
5. Find a diagram.
6. Find and copy a caption.

# Questions

1. What is a volcano?
2. Which ocean is the '**Ring of Fire**' in?
3. Why do you think the group of volcanoes around this ocean is called the '**Ring of Fire**'?
4. What does an '**active**' volcano mean?
5. Find and copy one word which describes a volcano that has not erupted for a long time.
6. Which town in Italy was destroyed by the volcano Mt. Vesuvius?
7. Why are volcanoes dangerous?
8. Is it safer to visit an **active** volcano or an **extinct** volcano? Why?
9. What do you notice about all of the subheadings? (look at the punctuation)

# CHALLENGE

Write your own questions about the 'Volcanoes' text.

Can you think of one?

Use questions words like 'What, When, Why, How, True or false' and finish with a ?