

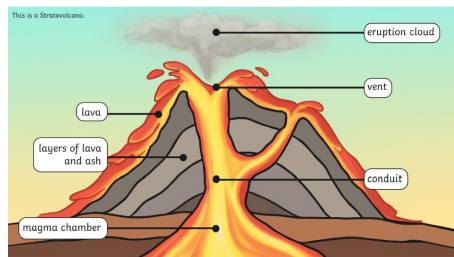


How are volcanoes formed?

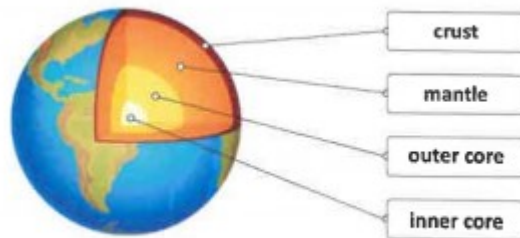
Volcanoes are formed when magma from within the Earth's upper mantle works its way to the surface. At the surface, it erupts to form lava flows and ash deposits. Over time as the volcano continues to erupt, it will get bigger and bigger.

Why do volcanoes erupt?

The Earth's crust is made up of huge slabs called plates, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. These plates sometimes move. The friction causes earthquakes and volcanic eruptions near the edges of the plates.



The Earth



Why do earthquakes happen?

An earthquake is the shaking and vibration of the Earth's crust due to movement of the Earth's plates. Plates do not always move smoothly alongside each other and sometimes get stuck. When this happens pressure builds up. When this pressure is eventually released, an earthquake tends to occur,

Glossary

Core— The centre of the Earth.

Mantle— This is the part between the core and the crust where rocks are formed.

Crust— This is the outer layer of the Earth.

Tectonic plates— The Earth's crust is made of large pieces of rock, like a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces are called plates and they meet at a fault line

Fault Line—This is a break in the Earth's crust.

Magma— Hot liquid in the Earth's core.

Lava—Hot liquid that comes out of a volcano after it erupts.

Richter Scale— A scale 1-10 used by scientists to describe the size of an earthquake. One describes the weakest and 10 describes the strongest.