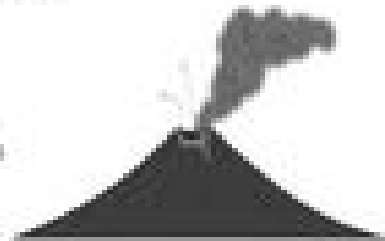


# Volcanoes

A volcano is a mountain with an opening at the top. This opening leads down to a pool of molten rock below the surface of the earth. Earth is made up of many plates, which fit together like a puzzle. When these plates move, friction can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Gases and rock shoot up through the opening and fill the air with lava.



Volcanoes are formed when magma from inside the Earth's mantle works its way to the surface. When it cools and hardens, it will form a small mound. Over time, the volcano will continue to erupt, and new magma will collect over the rock from the previous eruption. It'll cool and harden and make the mound even larger. Each time lava collects, the volcano will get bigger and bigger.

There are three main types of volcanoes. The first is cinder cone. These volcanoes have explosive eruptions and are formed by a build up of ash, cinders, and rocks. The cinder cone has a small bowl-shaped crater at the top and a gently sloping base. A shield volcano is less steep and shorter than other volcanoes. It has repeated eruptions. Lava flows slowly out of shield volcanoes. Mauna Loa in Hawaii is one of the largest shield volcanoes in the world. The last type of volcano is a composite volcano. It is a combination of a cinder and shield volcano because it is made up of both lava and debris. These volcanoes are the tallest and the steepest.

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