

Volcanoes are Hot Stuff

By

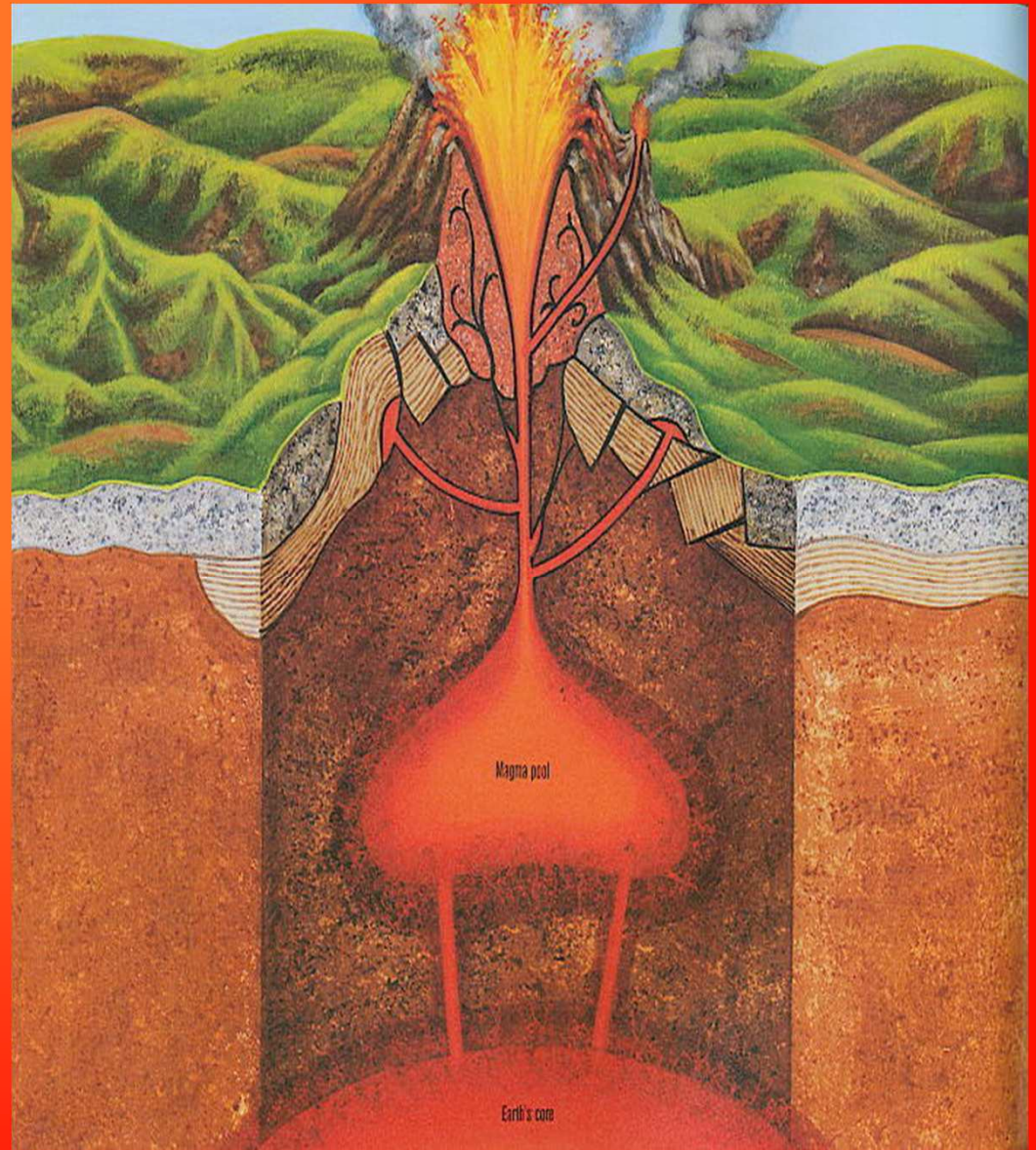
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**How are
volcanoes
formed?**

Deep in the earth it is very hot. It is so hot that rocks melt. The melted rock is called magma. The magma is lighter than the rocks around it so it rises. Sometimes it finds a crack or hole in the earth's crust and bursts through. This is how a volcano begins.



**Why do
volcanoes
erupt?**

Pressure builds deep in the earth where the magma is. Suddenly the gases escape and violently explode. It is kind of like toothpaste squirting out of a tube when you give it a hard squeeze.

**What are the
different kinds
of volcanoes?**

Volcanoes do not all look alike. Their shape is based on what type of materials they erupt. There are three main kinds, or shapes, of volcanoes.

Shield Volcanoes

Volcanoes that build up from many slow, steady, flows of hot lava, are called shield volcanoes. This kind of volcano is low and broad with gently sloping sides. They look like a warriors shield.



Soames Summerhays/Photo Researchers, Inc.

Cinder Cone Volcanoes

Cinder cone volcanoes form when solid rock and ash shoot up into the air and fall back around the volcano opening. The cinder cone volcano has steeply sloped sides.



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**Strato
or Composite
Volcanoes**

Strato volcanoes, also called composite volcanoes, erupt with molten lava, solid rock, and ash. The layers pile up much like layers of cake and frosting. The layers form into symmetrical cones, and the slopes are steep.



Masao Hayashi-Dunq/Photo Researchers, Inc.

There is much more about volcanoes out there. Look in books and on the internet. Have Fun!



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Why Do Volcanoes Blow Their Tops? By Melvin and Gilda
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www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/volcano/index.html