

# Volcanoes



## What Are They?

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Volcanoes are openings in Earth's **surface**.

Some look like mountains.

Others are flat and low.

When a volcano **erupts**, it sends hot **lava**, rocks, **gas**, and ash into the air.

# What Causes Them?

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**Pressure** builds deep inside the Earth. **Magma** is pushed up to the **surface**.

The volcano **erupts**.

**Magma** that reaches the **surface** is called **lava**.

It flows down the volcano.

## Volcano Damage

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Ash and dust fill the air.

They cover everything for miles around the volcano.

Volcanoes may cause **earthquakes** or **landslides**.

Sometimes they destroy **crops** and buildings.

# Where Are They?

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Most volcanoes form near the edges of **continents**.

Many volcanoes make up the **Ring of Fire**. This area circles the Pacific Ocean.

Some volcanoes are at the bottom of the oceans.

# Studying Volcanoes

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Scientists watch volcanoes and **measure** their activity.

Scientists try to **predict** when a volcano will **erupt**.

People can be warned to leave the area to stay safe.

# **Glossary Terms**

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continent - one of the seven large land masses of earth

gas - a substance with no shape that spreads to fill any space that holds it

surface - the outside or outermost area of something

crop - food plants grown in large amounts

pressure - the force produced by pressing on something

measure - to find out the size, weight, speed, or amount of something

predict - to say what you think will happen in the future

landslide - a large mass of soil and rocks that suddenly slides down a mountain or hill

lava - the hot, liquid rock that pours out of a volcano when it erupts

erupt - to burst out suddenly with great force

Ring of Fire - a line of volcanoes that circles the Pacific Ocean; the Ring of Fire is sometimes called the Pacific Ring of Fire.

earthquake - the sudden shaking of the Earth's surface

magma - melted rock found beneath the Earth's surface; magma flows as lava out of volcanoes and becomes igneous rock when it cools.

**“Volcanoes.” *Science*. Capstone, [www.pebblego.com](http://www.pebblego.com). Accessed 20 Mar. 2020.**