

Volcanoes

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.

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.

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.

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 Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed many towns such as Pompeii.

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What is a volcano?

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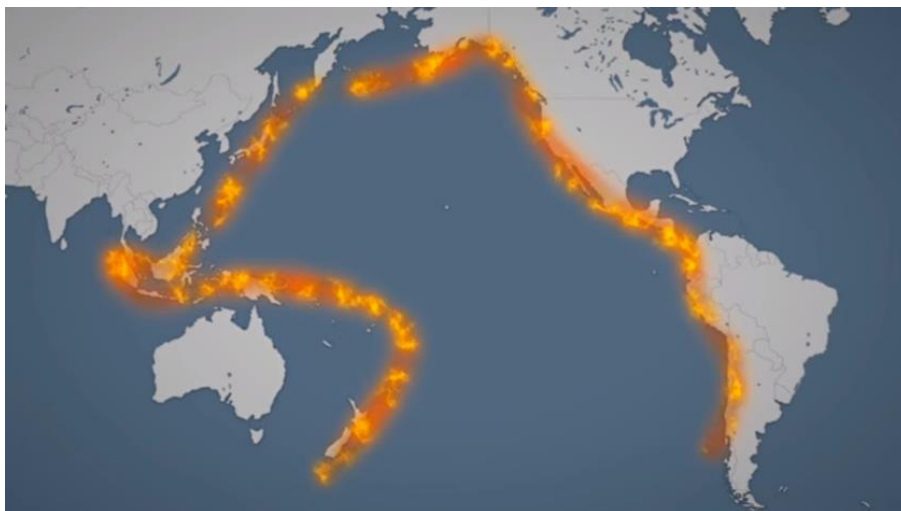


A volcano erupting.

Where are volcanoes?

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'The Pacific Ring of Fire'

What are the different types of volcanoes?

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Are volcanoes dangerous?

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Did you know?

The word "volcano" comes from the Roman name "Vulcan." He was the Roman god of fire!