



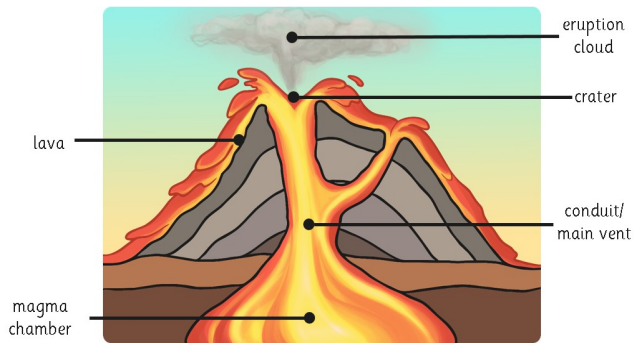
Shake It Off—Natural Disasters



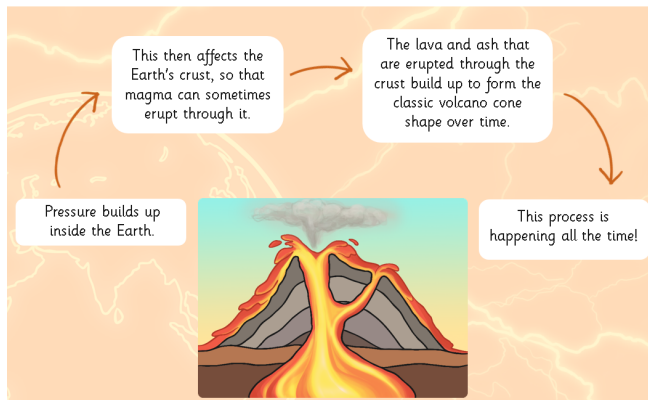
Volcanoes

What is a volcano?

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's **crust** that allows **magma**, hot ash and gases to escape. Volcanoes can look like mountains or small hills, depending on what type they are.



How are volcanoes made?



Tornadoes

What is a tornado?

Tornadoes consist of a very fast rotating column of air that usually forms a funnel shape. They can be very dangerous as their high speed winds can break apart buildings, knock down trees, and even toss cars into the air.

How do tornadoes form?

- Tornadoes form when warm air rises up from near the ground into big cumulonimbus (thunderstorm) clouds.
- The winds high up near the tops of the storm clouds start rotating.
- The rotating air is called a vortex.
- More air flows in along the ground from all directions and the vortex moves downwards and becomes more narrow.
- Funnel clouds form and develop into tornadoes.

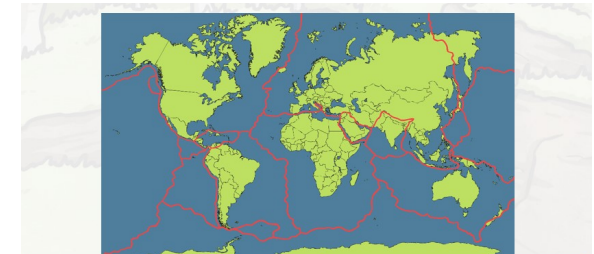
Key Vocabulary

- crust** The outer layer of the Earth
- destruction** The state of being completely ruined or destroyed.
- lava** Hot, melted rock that erupts from a volcano.
- magma** Hot liquid beneath the earth's surface.
- tremor** Shaking caused by an earthquake.

Earthquakes

What is an earthquake?

An earthquake happens when two large pieces of the Earth's crust suddenly slip. This causes shock waves to shake the surface of the Earth in the form of an earthquake.



The Earth's plates are always moving. They move so slowly that we usually can't feel it.

The edges of plates are called faults. Faults can rub together, push toward each other, or pull away from each other.

How are earthquakes measured?

Machines called seismographs measure the power of an earthquake at its epicentre on a scale called the **Richter scale**. Another measure is the **Mercalli scale**, and this is based on people's observations during an earthquake.

Packing an Emergency Kit:



Include the following items:

- plenty of water;
- a torch and spare batteries;
- emergency whistles;
- spare shoes and clothes;
- a first aid kit;
- a battery operated radio.

