



Earthquakes and Volcanoes

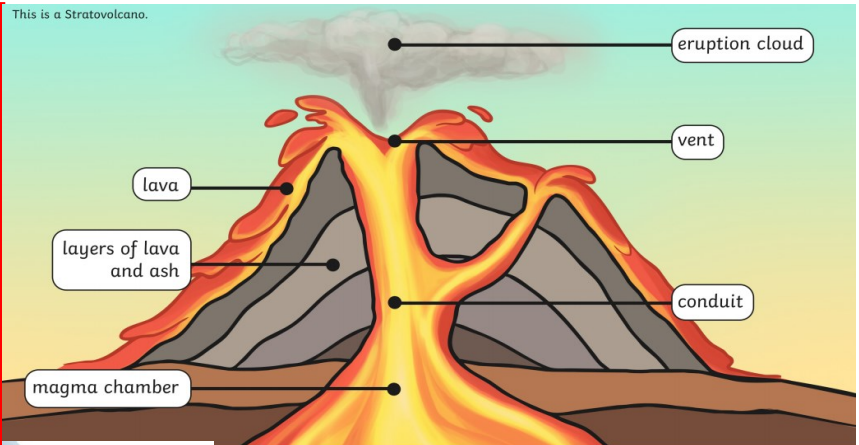
Knowledge Organiser

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Earthquakes

- Earthquakes happen when two large pieces of the Earth's crust suddenly slip. This causes shock waves to shake the surface of the Earth.
- They usually occur on the edges of large sections of the Earth's crust—called tectonic plates. The plates slowly move over a long period of time.
- Shock waves that travel through the ground are called seismic waves. Scientists use these waves to measure how big an earthquake is (MMS— Moment Magnitude Scale).
- The size of the waves is called the magnitude

This is a Stratovolcano.



Volcanoes

- Volcanoes are openings in the Earth's surface
- Hot liquid rock under the Earth's surface is known as **magma**. It is called **lava** once it spills out of a volcano.
- The word volcano originates from the name of the Roman God—**Vulcan**
- Volcanoes are usually located where **tectonic plates** meet.
- Volcanoes can be **active** (regular activity), **dormant** (recent historical activity but now quiet), **extinct** (no activity in historical times and unlikely to erupt again).

Famous Volcanoes

Mount Vesuvius 1281m Mount Krakatoa— 813m
Mount St Helens—2550m

Famous Earthquakes

Sumatra—Indonesia—Dec 26 2004.
Chile—May 22 1960

TECTONIC PLATES



One of the most famous historical Volcano eruptions was in 79AD. Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the nearby town of Pompeii and Herculaneum .

The town of Pompeii was completely buried by a thick layer of ash. This ash actually preserved many items, buildings and even some people!