

# Volcano

## Description

A volcano is a hill or mountain that forms over a crack in Earth's crust from which lava erupts.

## Location

Volcanoes occur all over the world, particularly along tectonic plate boundaries and above hotspots.

## Types of Volcanoes

There are three types of volcanoes:

- active
- dormant
- extinct

An active volcano has erupted in the past 10,000 years and is likely to erupt again. A dormant volcano is considered active but has not erupted for a very long time—several hundred years, for example. An extinct volcano has not erupted for at least 10,000 years. An extinct volcano no longer has a chamber full of magma beneath it, so it is not expected to erupt again.

## Additional Information

Volcanoes can be creative forces. They can add new land to our planet and bring minerals from deep inside the earth to the surface. Volcanoes can also be dangerous and destructive. They can fill the air with poisonous gases and hot ash. They can also release rivers of lava that destroy everything in their path. Volcanoes can add things to Earth's surface but can also destroy things on Earth's surface.

## References

*The Changing Earth* (2014)

