

Blowing It's Top!

VOLCANOES

A volcano is an opening into the hot interior of our planet.

There are about **1,500** active volcanoes **on land** right now and another **80** active volcanoes **under the ocean**.

Where our plate tectonic puzzle pieces meet, volcanoes often form. Lava comes out of the volcano. There are 3 different types of lava:



Runny Lava

- * Runny lava flows quickly (like a fast river) and when it cools, turns into gentle sloping hills. This is called pahoehoe (paw-hoey-hoey), which is a word from Hawaii.

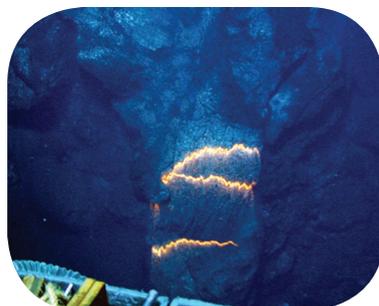


Thick Sticky Lava

- * Thick sticky lava does not flow as far and can make steep mountains. This is called 'A'ā (ah-ah).
- * Thick sticky lava volcanoes can have big explosions and launch lava and ash up in the air as fast as 200 mph (as fast as a race car!)
- * These can be so explosive that they can even blow off the top of the volcano.

Pillow Lava

- * The third type of lava is called Pillow lava and its created by underwater volcanoes. As soon as the lava touches the water, it cools and forms a hard shell that looks like a pillow. Those pillows crack when new lava comes out and form more pillows.



Volcanoes can be very dangerous but they also help the earth:



PREDICT IT!

What good things do you think a volcano can do for our planet and us?

Draw or write your prediction:



DID YOU KNOW? Volcanoes have created:

- * **80% of earth's surface** (including underwater) - this means almost everything you walk on was created by a volcano.
- * Much of the **air** we breathe
- * **Rich soil** for farmers to grow

Note: it took a lot of time (hundreds of millions of years) for volcanoes to create all this.

Your herb garden needs rich soil with lots of nutrients, just like the type of soil that volcanoes make.



TOP 5 VOLCANO ERUPTIONS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be7o6BYVOZA>

