

# What is a Volcano?

A volcano is a mountain that can erupt! Inside the Earth, there is hot liquid rock called magma. Sometimes, this magma bubbles up to the surface, and when it does, we call it lava. When lava comes out, it can create a volcano.

## How Do Volcanoes Work?

1. **Building the Volcano:** When the magma reaches the surface, it cools down and hardens. Over time, this can build up a mountain shape.

2. **What Makes a Volcano Erupt:** If too much pressure builds up inside the volcano from the magma, it can cause an eruption. This means the volcano 'explodes' and the lava, ash, and gases come out rapidly.

## Types of Volcanoes

There are different types of volcanoes:

- **Shield Volcanoes:** These have gentle slopes and create broad bases. They pour out a lot of lava, which spreads out over a large area.
- **Stratovolcanoes:** These have steep sides and are made from both lava and ash. They can erupt violently!
- **Repeating Volcanoes:** Some volcanoes erupt often, while others might stay quiet for a long time before erupting again.

## Why Are Volcanoes Important?

Volcanoes can be dangerous when they erupt, but they are also very important for the Earth. They can create new land, they help make soil richer for plants, and they can form beautiful landscapes.

## Fun Facts About Volcanoes

- There are more than 1,500 active volcanoes on Earth!
- The highest volcano in the world is Ojos del Salado in Chile.
- Some volcanoes can erupt with lava flows, while others may shoot out ash and rocks into the air.

## Conclusion

Volcanoes are fascinating natural wonders that play a big role in shaping our planet. Knowing about them helps us understand nature better!