Geography - Why do people live near volcanoes?

Layers of the earth

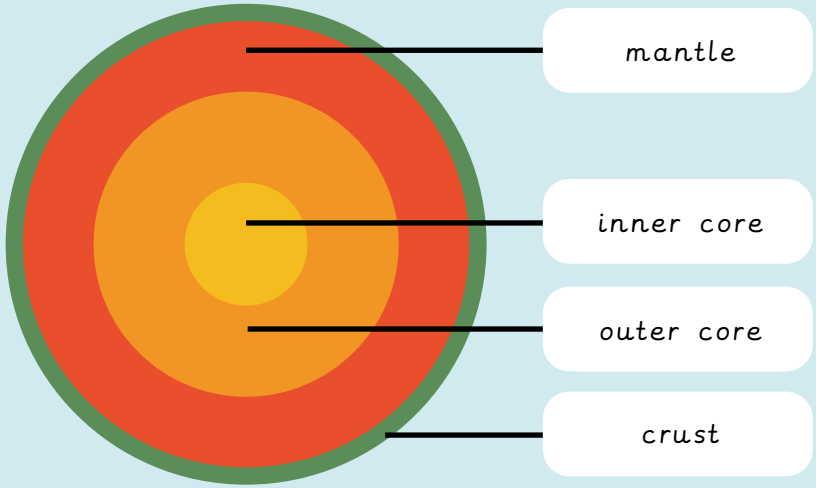
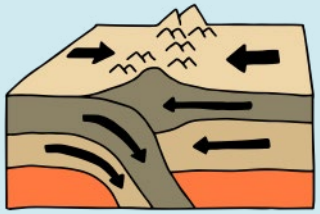


Plate boundaries

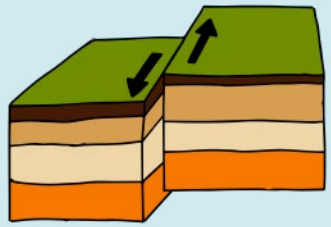


convergent

This is where two tectonic plates meet. The ground can fold up, creating fold mountains.

divergent

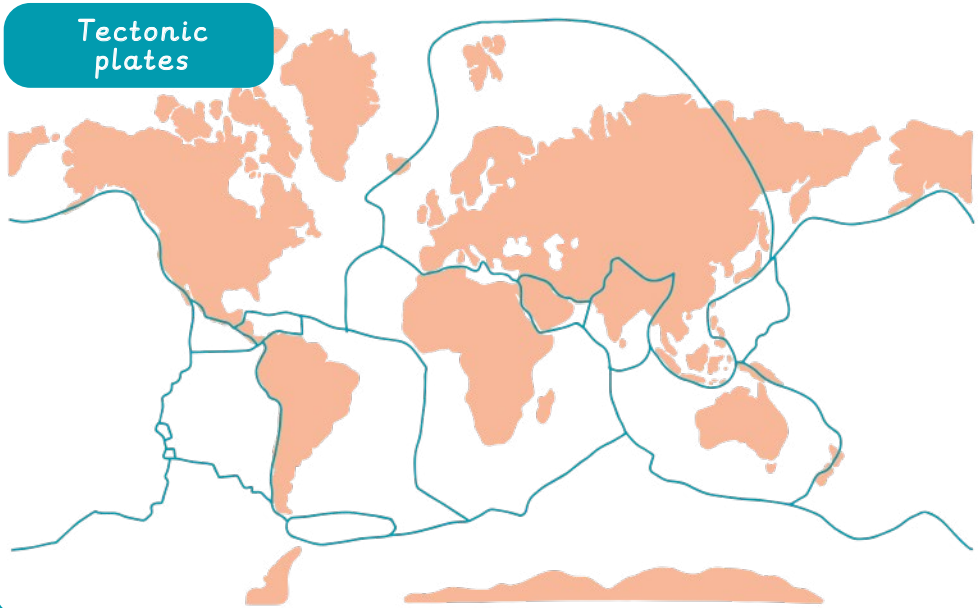
This is where two tectonic plates move apart. Magma can come through the gap, creating a volcanic mountain.



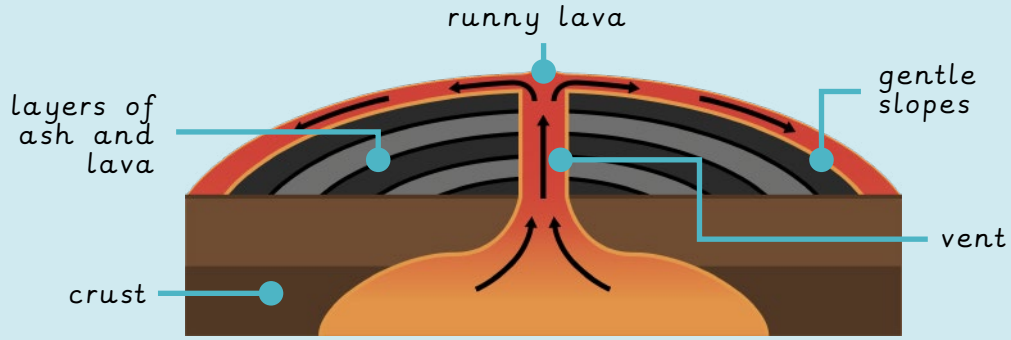
transform

This is where two tectonic plates slide past one another. Cracks in the plates can cause fault-block mountains.

Tectonic plates



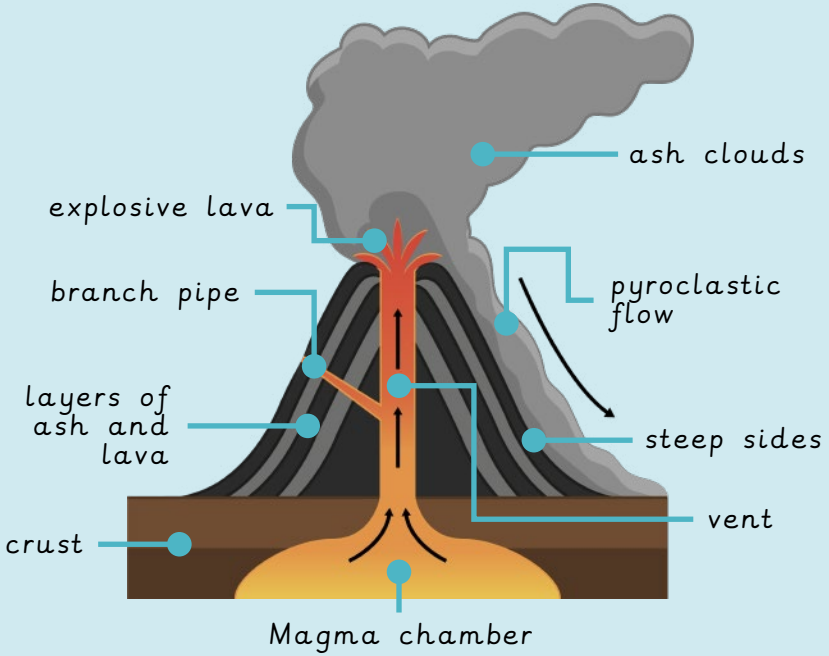
Shield volcano



A less-explosive, gently sloping volcano.

Geography - Why do people live near volcanoes?

Composite volcano



An explosive, steep-sided volcano.

Negative and positive effects of living near a volcano

Negative

- People may be injured or killed.
- Forests and farmland may be destroyed.
- Homes may be destroyed.
- Carbon dioxide emissions contribute to climate change.
- Ash clouds can pollute rivers, killing fish.
- Tsunamis and earthquakes may happen.

Positive

- Rich, fertile soil is created.
- New land is created over time from hardened lava.
- Volcanoes can be beautiful landscapes.
- Hot springs and skin-brightening mud attract tourists.
- Tourism to volcanoes creates jobs.
- Geothermal energy from the steam is environmentally friendly.
- Mining for precious stones and minerals around a volcano creates jobs and provides materials for making jewellery, electronics and other valuable products.

Volcano classification

active

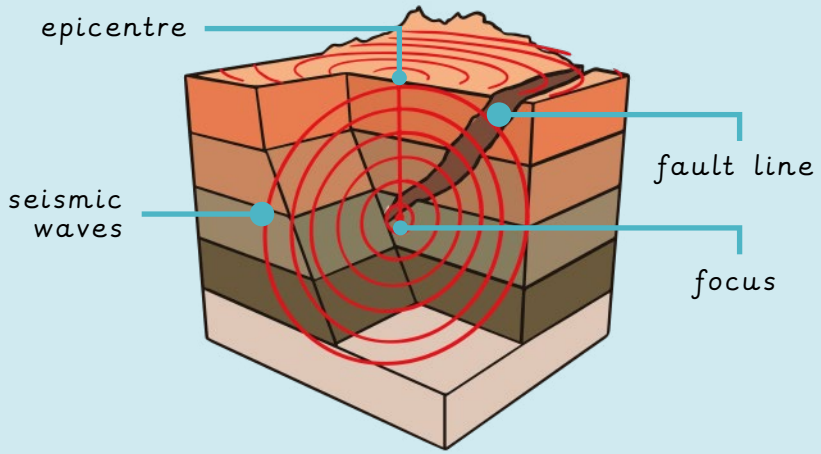
A volcano currently erupting or is likely to erupt soon.

extinct

A volcano that has not erupted in 10,000 years and is not expected to erupt again.

dormant

A volcano that may erupt again but has not erupted for a while.



earthquake

A shaking of the ground caused by tectonic plates moving.

Geography - Why do people live near volcanoes?

Map of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes