# Year 5 & 6 Volcanoes

| Key vocabulary | |
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| **volcano** | An opening in the earth's crust through which lava, volcanic ash, and gases escape. |
| **tectonic plate** | Large, slow moving pieces of the Earth's crust. |
| **magma** | Melted rock (still below the earth's surface). |
| **lava flow** | The movement of lava (melted rock) above the earth's surface. |
| **ring of fire** | Found in the Pacific, this area has 90% of the world's earthquakes and 75% of the volcanoes |
| **active volcano** | Volcanoes that can erupt anytime and do so regularly |
| **dormant volcano** | A volcano that has not erupted recently |
| **extinct volcano** | A volcano that isn't expected to ever erupt again |
| **conduit** | An underground passage which magma travels through . |
| **vent** | An opening in the surface of the Earth through which volcanic materials, such as magma, can escape. |
| **eruption cloud** | A cloud of ash. It is formed by volcanic explosions. |

| Key Knowledge | |
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| **Preceding** | There are tectonic plates on the earth's surface.<br><br>Mountains were made by tectonic plates rubbing together. A volcanic mountain is formed similarly to other mountain types. |
| **Current** | The Earth is made up of a number of different sections: the core, the mantle and the crust.<br><br>Volcanoes are formed when magma from the Earth's upper mantle rises to the surface. At the surface, it erupts forming lava flows and ash. As the volcano continues to erupt it increases in size resulting in how many volcanoes look today.<br><br>During an eruption, magma is pushed upwards through vents and craters. When this magma reaches the Earth's surface it is known as lava.<br><br>Lava gives off a large amount of gas often resulting in an 'ash cloud' seen billowing out of the top of an erupting volcano. This comes out of the throat which is the top entrance to a volcano.<br><br>There are three main types of volcano – composite, shield and dome.<br><br>Composite volcanoes erupt explosively; they are usually quite large and cone shaped.<br><br>Shield volcanoes are gentle slopes; runny lava that can run a long distance erupts out of them<br><br>Cone volcanoes have rock formed around the vent. |

## Volcano Case Study: Mount Vesuvius

In 79 BCE, Mount Vesuvius violently erupted firing out smoke, lava and ash. The eruption covered the nearby town of Pompeii. Excavations have uncovered the entirety of this town covered by lava.