

Studying Volcanoes

Study*ladder*

A photograph of a volcanic eruption. A large, dark plume of ash and smoke rises from a central crater, illuminated from below by the bright orange and yellow glow of the lava flow. The surrounding landscape is rugged and rocky, with other smaller volcanic peaks visible in the distance under a twilight sky.

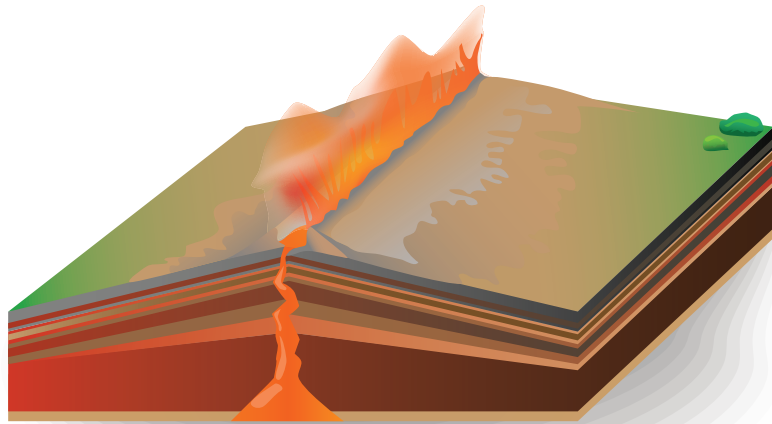
The word *volcano* comes from the Latin word 'volcanus' meaning 'burning mountain' (named after the Roman God of Fire, Vulcan.)

- *Volcanology* is the study of volcanoes.
- A scientist who studies volcanoes is called a *volcanologist*.

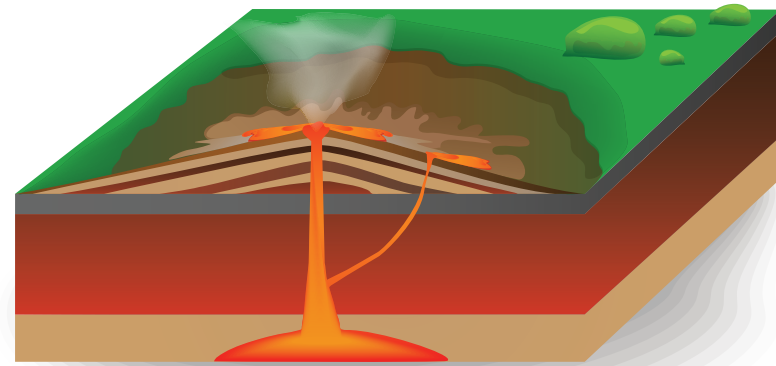


Volcanic action is monitored by scientific equipment that picks up vibrations in the Earth's crust.

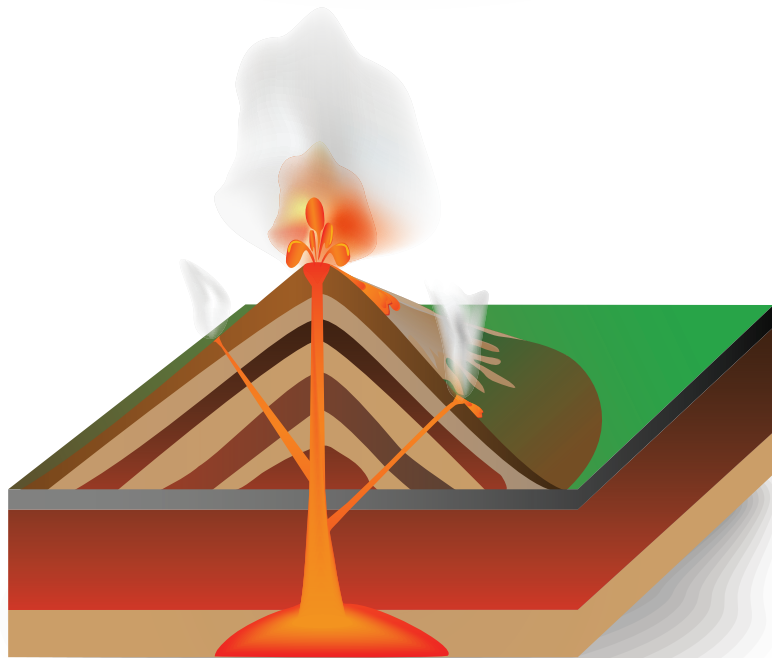
Types of Volcanoes



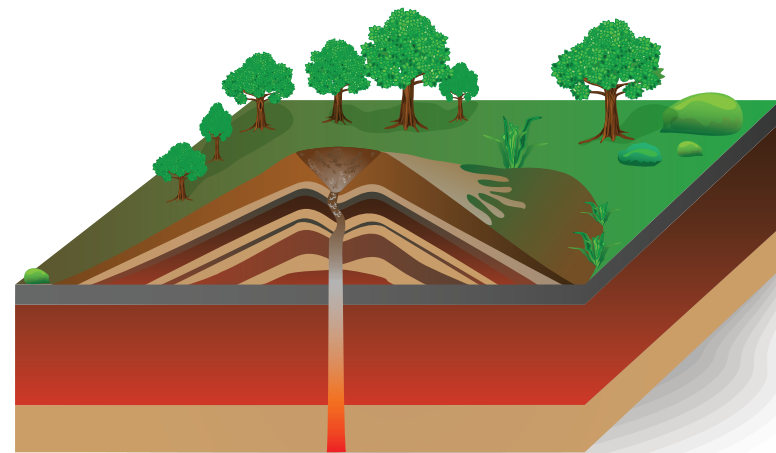
Fissure vent



Shield volcano



Stratovolcano



Lava dome

Definitions:

Active Volcano

An active volcano is one that has had at least one eruption in the last 10 000 years. The volcano may be currently erupting, showing signs of unrest or be in a quiet period between eruptions.

Dormant Volcano

A dormant volcano is one that is capable of erupting but has not erupted for a long period of time. Dormant volcanoes are expected to erupt again. Some people describe dormant volcanoes as 'sleeping' volcanoes that will erupt when they 'wake up'.

Extinct Volcano

An extinct volcano is one that has not erupted for at least 10 000 years and is not expected to erupt again. There is no lava supply in the magma chamber below the volcano.