

Name:

Date:

Why Volcanoes Erupt

Deep beneath Earth's surface, it is extremely hot. Some rock becomes so hot that it melts, forming a thick liquid called magma.

Magma can collect in large spaces beneath a volcano.

As more magma gathers, pressure begins to build.

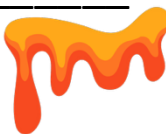
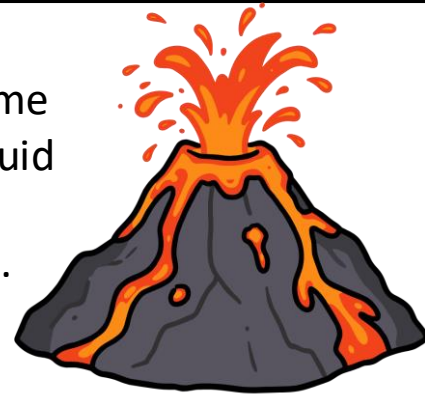
It is a little like shaking a bottle of fizzy drink.

Eventually, the pressure can become strong enough to force the magma upward through cracks in the Earth's crust.

When magma reaches the surface, it is called lava. During an eruption, lava, ash, rock and hot gases may burst from the volcano. Some eruptions are gentle, with lava flowing slowly down the sides. Others can be powerful explosions that send ash high into the sky.

Volcanoes can be dangerous, but they can also change the land around them. As lava cools, it hardens into rock. Over many years, repeated eruptions can create mountains and even new islands.

Volcanic eruptions are a powerful reminder that deep beneath our feet, the Earth is constantly changing.



1. What is the passage mainly about?

2. What is melted rock beneath Earth's surface called? _____

3. What happens when pressure builds beneath a volcano?

4. Name two things that may come out of a volcano during an eruption.

5. How can volcanic eruptions change the land?

Answers

1. The passage is mainly about why volcanoes erupt and how eruptions can change the land.
2. Magma.
3. The pressure can force magma upward through cracks in the Earth's crust.
4. Lava, ash, rock or hot gases.
5. Cooling lava can form new rock, mountains and even new islands.