

How Volcanoes Erupt

Volcanoes are like holes on the Earth's surface. All volcanoes spit out lava, rocks, gas and ash which surrounds the land. This is called a volcanic eruption and takes place below the Earth's surface.

There are five main parts of a volcano including, the magma chamber, main vent, crater, cone and small vents. The magma chamber is a large space where lava is stored. Connected to it is the main vent which is long and wide like a tube. On top of it is the crater which is moderately curved like a bowl. Another part of the volcano is the cone which is a large, dome-shaped mount. Lastly, there are the small vents, which are small and thin.



Just before the eruption, hot molten rock from the mantle rises to the earth's surface. As a result of extreme pressure within the Earth, the magma rises to the surface of the earth. Due to the gas bubbles, which grow larger and larger, the magma finds the narrow vent, and spurts out. This culminates in magma which loses bubbles and turns into lava that flows away from the vent. Consequently, exposure to the atmosphere causes the lava to change colour from white to yellow, to orange to red. Eventually the lava turns black. It is now called basalt.



1. Find and **copy** the word that tells you that the pressure build-up is intense.



2. Tick true or false in the following table:

	True	False
Eruptions happen above the Earth's surface.		
Pressure within the Earth causes the magma to rise to the Earth's surface.		
When the lava turns black it is known as basalt.		



3. The word closest in meaning to the word 'culminates' is... (Circle one).

combines results begins buries



4. Where is the lava stored in a volcano?
