

Nova's Guide to the Fierce and Fiery Earth

Journey to the Earth's core with Nova—discover the power beneath our feet!

- The Earth's outer shell, the crust, is broken into giant pieces called tectonic plates that move very slowly over the mantle.
- Magma is molten rock stored deep beneath the Earth's surface; once it breaks through to the surface, we call it lava.
- A volcanic eruption occurs when pressure from gases and magma builds up until it forces its way through a vent in the crust.
- Volcanoes are classified as 'active' if they erupt frequently, 'dormant' if they are sleeping, or 'extinct' if they are unlikely to erupt again.
- Ash clouds from large eruptions can travel thousands of miles, sometimes cooling the Earth's atmosphere for a short period.

Did you know? Did you know? Some volcanoes grow underwater! When lava erupts beneath the ocean, it cools quickly to form new rock, sometimes creating brand new islands in the middle of the sea.

Key vocabulary: Magma · Lava · Crust · Vent · Tectonic plates · Dormant · Active · Extinct