



## What is a Volcano?

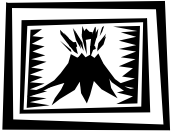


A volcano is a big hole in the Earth's surface.



Deep in the Earth **pressure** pushes **lava** up to the **surface**. Where the **surface** is thin and weak a volcano will **form**. And when a volcano **erupts**, red hot **lava**, **ash** and **rocks** fly into the air and down the mountain.

**Volcanoes** are very dangerous. They are named after the Roman god of fire, **Vulcan** from 2000 years ago.



## Where are Volcanoes?



The **surface** of the Earth is made up of many **separate plates**. These **tectonic plates** are on a sea of **molten lava** and are always **moving**. Volcanoes are on the **edges** of the **plates**. The most famous **plate** is the "ring of fire" which goes around the Pacific ocean.

The volcano, **Vesuvius** in Italy **destroyed** the Roman city of **Pompeii** 2000 thousand years ago killing many people

## Map of Tectonic Plates in the World.

