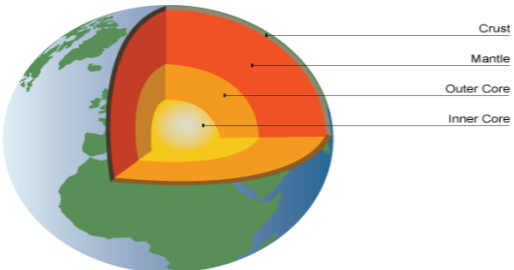


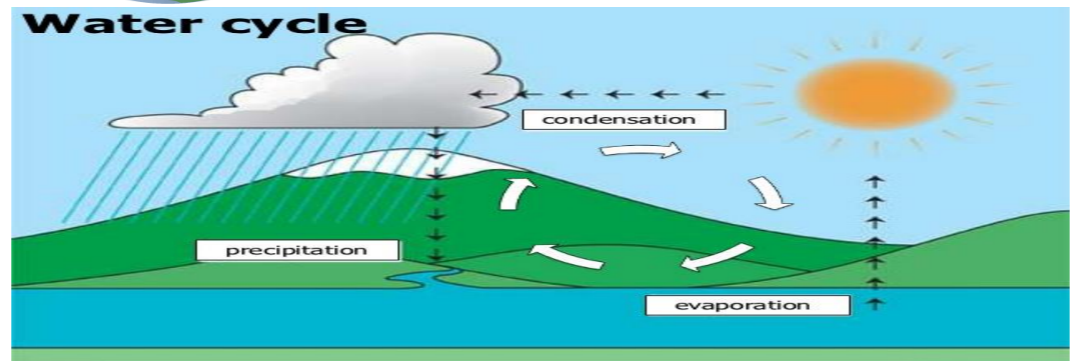
# Natural Disasters - fact sheet



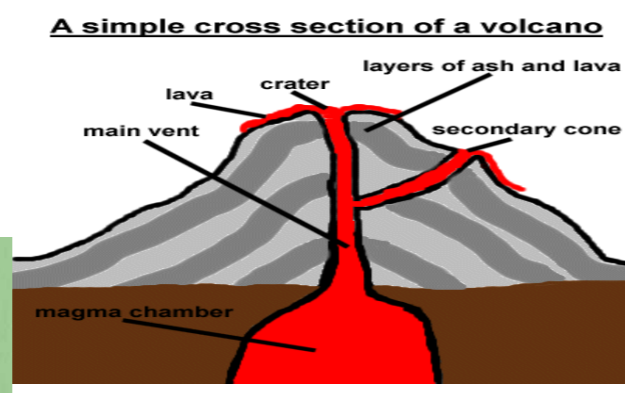
The Earth's surface is made up of lots of pieces called **tectonic plates**. These plates can slide against each other, which lets magma from underneath squeeze up through the cracks. When tectonic plates move, it also causes **earthquakes**. Most volcanoes are located along the edges of tectonic plates, especially around the Pacific Ocean - this is called the Pacific **Ring of Fire**.



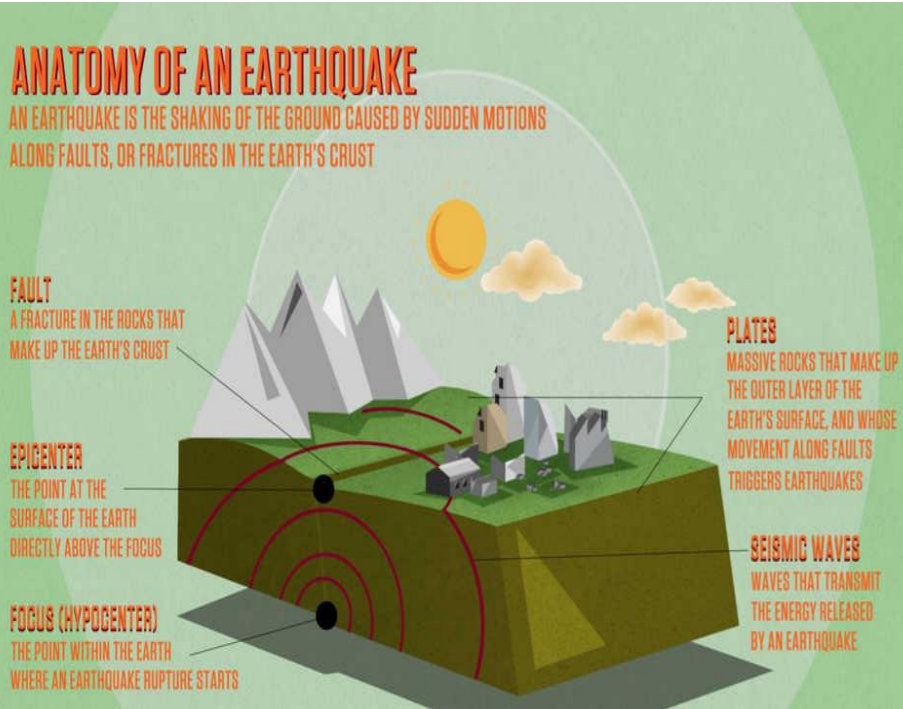
A **volcano** is a very deep hole in the Earth's top layer that can let out hot gasses, ash and **lava**. Many volcanoes are also mountains.



Vocabulary	Definition
Ash	Fine particles of rock dust blown from an explosion vent.
Crater	the bowl-shaped area at the top of a volcano's vent
Eruption	The process by which solid, liquid, and gaseous materials are ejected into the earth's atmosphere and onto the earth's surface by volcanic activity.
Fault	A crack or fracture in the earth's surface.
Lava	Magma which has reached the surface through a volcanic eruption. Streams of liquid rock that flow from a crater or fissure.
Magma	Molten rock beneath the surface of the earth.
Vent	The main part of a volcano where magma and gasses come through from deep inside the Earth



The **Galápagos Islands** are home to lots of different types of plants and animals. They contain some of the most unusual animals on the planet. For example, **giant tortoises**, **marine iguanas** and even the **Galápagos penguin**. On his visit to the islands in 1835, Charles Darwin noticed the slight differences between the same types of animal on each island. This helped him work out how they had **adapted** to their **environment** through a process called **natural selection**.



A **natural disaster** is a major adverse event resulting from **natural processes** of the Earth; examples are **floods**, **hurricanes**, **tornadoes**, **volcanic eruptions**, **earthquakes**, **tsunamis**, **storms**, and other geologic processes.

- Volcano facts:**
- Volcanoes are big holes that let out gasses, ash and magma from deep inside the earth. Most of the gas that escapes is poisonous.
  - Volcanoes are big holes that let out **gasses**, **ash** and **magma** from deep inside the Earth.
  - Many volcanoes are **mountains**, made up of layers of lava and ash.
  - Many volcanoes have several **vents** - a main one, and secondary ones that branch off the main vent. The volcano's main vent goes all the way down to the layer of magma in between the Earth's crust and mantle.
  - The Earth has three layers - the **crust** at the very top, then the **mantle**, then the **core** at the very middle of the planet.
  - There are three ways to describe a volcano and explain what it's doing - **active**, **erupting**, and **dormant**.
  - An **extinct** volcano is one that hasn't erupted in at least 10,000 years, and that scientists don't think will erupt again for a very long time.
  - The largest **active** volcano in the world is **Mauna Loa**, on the Hawaiian islands.
  - When a volcano erupts, magma comes up and out through the vents. **magma** (solid) is called **lava** (liquid) when it's outside the volcano.
  - Depending on how thick the magma is, volcanoes can be different shapes such as **shield**, **composite** or **dome**.
  - Ash from volcanoes is very good for growing things. It adds nutrients to the soil.



The Galápagos Islands are an **archipelago** or group of **islands** that have been created by **volcanoes**. They are found in the Pacific Ocean, almost 1,000 km from the coast of **Ecuador** in **South America**. The islands are at either side of the **Equator**, which means they are in both the **Southern** and the **Northern Hemisphere**.

Shield Volcano: Mauna Kea

Composite Volcano: Mt Cotapaxi

Dome Volcano: Mount St Helens

