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Volcanoes and Geysers

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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Introduction

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Volcanoes and geysers are found in many parts of the world.

Some volcanoes often throw ash and lava into the air. Others have not erupted for a long time.



Whole cities and towns have been destroyed by the lava and ash that come out of volcanoes.



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Many people live near volcanoes because the ash from volcanic eruptions is good for farming.



Geysers spurt hot water and steam into the air.

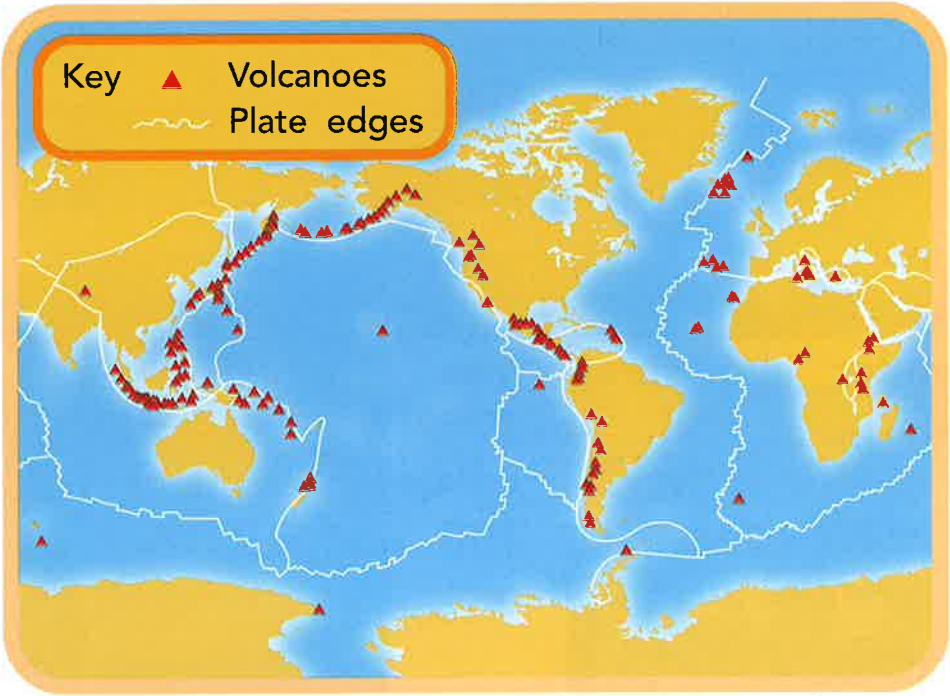
People use the hot water in many different ways.



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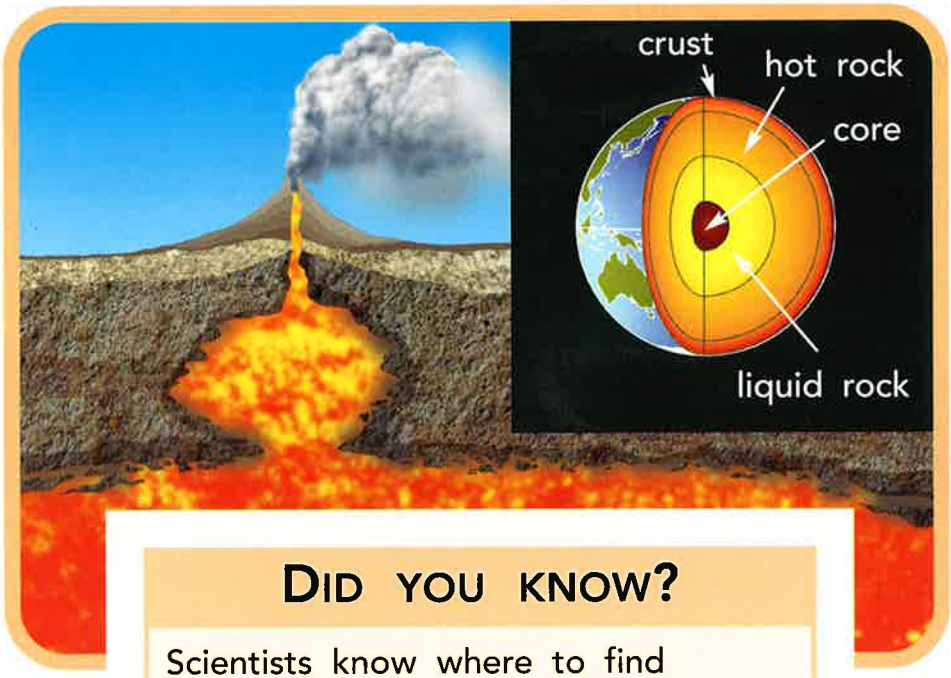
How volcanoes are made

Volcanoes usually happen at places where the Earth's crust is cracked. The crust is the top layer of the Earth, and is made of many giant pieces, called plates. The plates fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, but they are moving slowly all the time.



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Just below the crust is a layer of hot rock. Sometimes the rock gets so hot, that it melts and changes into a thick, boiling liquid called lava. The lava escapes through cracks in the crust. The cracks are usually near the edges of the plates. The lava cools and turns into hard rock. It builds up and forms a volcano.



DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists know where to find most volcanoes by learning about the movements of the Earth's plates.

Active volcanoes

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Some volcanoes are active. This means that at any time they may throw out rocks, lava and ash. When this happens, it is called an eruption.

Volcanoes erupt in different ways, and form different-shaped mountains.

Sometimes the lava flows out of the volcano like a river. People have time to move away to safety.

