

Year 4 - Mountains and Volcanoes

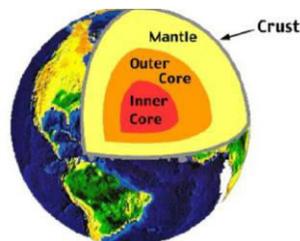
Key Facts

The Earth

The earth has three layers - the **crust** at the top, then the **mantle**, then the **core** at the very centre of the planet.

The Earth's crust is made up of huge slabs called tectonic **plates**, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle.

These **tectonic plates** slowly move over a long period of time.



Mountains

When two **tectonic plates** of the earth's crust grind into each other the land can be pushed upwards, forming mountains



Many of the greatest **mountain** ranges in the world have **formed** because of enormous collisions between the **tectonic plates**.

When many **mountains** are close together, this is called a **range**.

The highest point of a **mountain** is called the **peak**, or **summit**.

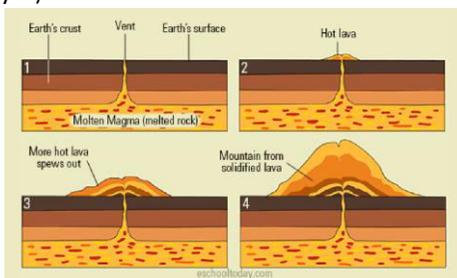
Volcanoes

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

Volcanoes have long **vents** that go down through the Earth's **crust** (first layer) to **magma** in between the **crust** and the **mantle** second layer). It is so hot here that rocks **melt** into liquid, called **magma**, which travels up the volcano through the **vent** and flows out as **lava**.

There are three types of volcano – **active**, **erupting** and **dormant**.

There are no **volcanoes** in the UK. The largest volcano in Europe is Mount Etna



By the end of the topic you will learn:

I can

- locate and name countries in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres using an atlas.
- locate and name some of the world's most famous mountains, mountain ranges and volcanoes in the UK, Europe and the world, using an atlas.
- use geographical words correctly to describe features of volcanoes.
- write a non-chronological report about the features of mountains and the different types of mountains.
- describe using correct geographical terms how mountains and volcanoes are formed.
- describe the weather in a mountainous region.
- explain why people choose to live near mountainous regions (positives and negatives).

Key Vocabulary: The Earth and Mountains

Active	An active volcano has erupted recently or is expected to erupt soon
Continent	A very large area of land that consists of many countries, like Europe
Core	The central part of the earth, beneath the mantle
Crust	The outer layer of the earth
Dormant	A 'sleeping' volcano that is not active but might become so later on
Erupt	When a volcano erupts it throws a lot of hot melted rock called lava
Foot	The bottom of a mountain
Form	Move or arrange
Gas	Something not liquid or solid – a gas rapidly spreads when it is warmed.
Lava	The very hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano
Layers	The different levels or parts of the Earth – crust, mantle, core
Magma	Molten rock that is formed in very hot conditions inside the earth.

Key Vocabulary: Volcanoes

Mantle	The Earth's second layer – between the crust and the core.
Melt	To change from a solid to a liquid state through heat or pressure
Mountain	A very high area of land with steep sides
Peak	The highest point of a mountain, also known as summit
Plateau	An area of flat, high ground
Range (mountains)	A group/ line of mountains/hills together
Summit	The highest point of a mountain, also known as peak
Tectonic Plates	Any of the several segments of the earth's crust that move.
Valley	The area of lowland between mountains
Vegetation	Plants, trees, flowers
Vent	The part of a volcano through which lava and gas erupt
Volcano	An opening in the Earth's crust where red hot rocks and gases break through the

	surface from underground.	