

Age: 5+

V is for...Volcano



A **volcano** is an opening on the surface (typically a mountain) that allows material and molten rock to erupt. Material that is warmer than its surrounding environment escapes from inside. Volcanos open downward of the surface to molten rock, also known as magma, which is located below the surface of earth. **Magma** is made up of very hot rocks and gases.

What causes volcanoes to erupt? The earth's crust (go back to "O" for Earth Orbit to learn about earth's crust) is made up of plates. The plates fit together like a puzzle, when two plates collide and one plate slides on top of the other, magma is pushed up between the two plates causing an eruption of the volcano. When magma erupts through earth's surface it is called **lava**.

Activity: Make your own volcano eruption

Materials needed:

- Plastic cup
- Water
- 4-5 tbs of baking soda
- ½ oz to 2 oz of washable paint per color [or food coloring]
 - More colors= more fun
- 1 tsp dish soap
- 1 cup of vinegar [per eruption]

Instructions:

1. Place the plastic cup outside or in an area that is easy to clean [it will be messy]
2. Add water, baking soda, dish soap, and washable paint to the plastic cup. MIX all ingredients together
3. If you can, place the plastic cup in a mound of sand, dirt, pea gravel or snow to secure your cup during the eruption.
4. Add the vinegar and watch the volcano erupt
5. Repeat by adding a different color and more vinegar



Job Exploration:

- **Volcanologist:** A volcanologist is a research who studies physical aspects of Earth, its composition, and structure/processes related to volcanic activity.
- **Geologist:** A geologist study's the materials, processes, and history of the Earth. They also study how rocks were formed.
- **Geochemists:** A geochemist study the composition, structure, processes, and other physical aspects of the Earth. They examine the distribution of chemical elements in rocks and minerals, as well as the movement of these elements into soil and water systems.

For more info on this lesson plan and activity visit:

<https://preschoolinspirations.com/easy-baking-soda-and-vinegar-volcano-eruption-for-kids/>