Y4 Geography – Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Layers of the Earth



Tectonic Plates

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Earthquakes in Italy

In Italy earthquakes can be strong and cause heavy damage. Due to the location of tectonic plates in the country there are more earthquakes than average. Since 1950, more than 6700 people have died due to earthquakes in Italy.

Earthquakes

- Earthquakes are caused when the earth's tectonic plates suddenly move
- Most earthquakes occur near the tectonic plate boundaries.
- Earthquakes can cause damage to roads, buildings and property.
- The power of an earthquake is measured using the Richter Scale.



Vocabulary	
Core	Art the centre of the Earth. There is a solid inner core and outer liquid core of molten metal.
Crater	The mouth of a volcano
Crust	The surface layer covering our planet
Earthquake	A violent movement of parts of the Earth's surface
Epicentre	The point on the earth's surface at the centre of an earthquake
Erupt	To suddenly burst out causing lava to explode out of the Earth's surface.
Lava	Molten, hot rock flowing from a volcano
Molten	Hot, melted rocks
Magma	Extremely hot, liquid rock
Mantle	Under the crust is the mantle forming about half of the Earth.
Seismic waves	An elastic wave in the earth produced by an earthquake
Tectonic plates	The Earth's crust is made up of large areas called tectonic plates that join together
Volcano	An opening in the Earth's crust through which lava, ash and gases escape.

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Volcanoes

Volcanoes are made when pressure build up inside the earth. This affects the earth's crust causing magma to sometimes erupt through it.

Active volcanoes have erupted in the last 10,000 years

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Dormant volcanoes haven't erupted in the last 10,000 years but may erupt again.

Extinct volcanoes aren't expected to erupt again.



Volcanoes in Italy





Mount Etna

Some of the most well-known volcanoes in the world are located in Italy. There are six active volcanoes in the country currently including: Vesuvius, Stromboli, Vulcano and Mount Etna.

Scientists believe that Mt. Vesuvius, which destroyed Pompeii in A.D. 70 could erupt again soon.

Although volcanoes can be dangerous they do have some benefits. Areas near volcanoes often have thermal springs and tend to be a major tourist attraction.

Mt. Etna erupted as recently as February 2021 forcing a nearby airport to close. No injuries or deaths were caused however.

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