



# Runnymede St. Edwards Primary Catholic School

## - Knowledge Organiser

**Subject:**  
Geography

**Volcanoes**

**Year: 3**

**Term: Summer 1**

|                   | Key Knowledge and Vocabulary                                            |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| surface           | The very outer part of the Earth's crust                                |
| mantle            | Area between the crust and the core                                     |
| core              | The centre of the earth                                                 |
| lava              | Molten rock <b>erupted onto the surface</b> of the earth                |
| magma             | Molten rock <b>under the surface</b> of the earth                       |
| oceanic crust     | A thin part of the crust under the oceans and seas                      |
| continental crust | Relatively thick part of the crust: carries the land                    |
| composite volcano | Steep-sided volcanoes made up of layers of ash and cooled, viscous lava |
| viscous           | A thick consistency of a fluid                                          |

### Mount Etna

Mount Etna is in Sicily near the coast. Sicily is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, it is part of a country called Italy.

Mount Etna is a dangerous volcano. It has more than 300 vents! Since 2001, Mount Etna has erupted nearly every year.

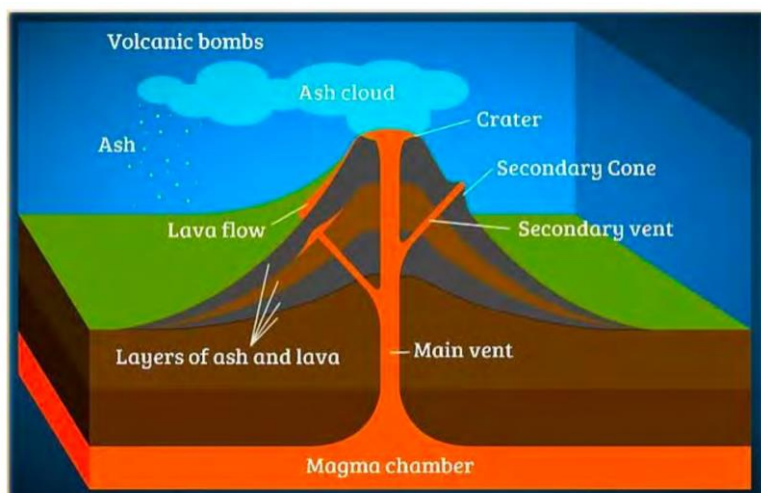
Mount Etna is a **composite** volcano.

In the year 1669, Mount Etna's lava flows destroyed 10 villages and killed 2000 people. The surrounding area of Etna is extremely fertile and great for growing crops, especially lemons and limes - known as citrus fruits.



### How are volcanoes formed?

1. Magma rises through cracks or weaknesses in the Earth's crust.
2. Pressure builds up inside the Earth.
3. When this pressure is released, e.g. as a result of plate movement, magma explodes to the surface causing a volcanic eruption.
4. The lava from the eruption cools to form new crust.
5. Over time, after several eruptions, the rock builds up and a volcano forms.



### Staying safe near a dangerous volcano

Scientists help residents stay safe by identifying warning signs of an eruption:

1. Increase in temperature
2. More gases being released
3. Change in shape of the volcano

There are three ways to describe a volcano and explain what it's doing – active, erupting, and dormant.

**Geologists** are scientists who study rocks.

### The structure of Earth

What is the Earth like on the inside? There are four layers of Earth.

