

## Volcanic Eruptions

### Note-taking Guide: Answer Key

---

*island, minerals, gas, eventually, magma, molten, against, useful, opening, Hawaiian, erupts, forests, hot, weak, cools, crust, lava*

---

A volcano is an opening in Earth's crust through which molten rock escapes.

It's extremely hot deep inside Earth's crust.

That's why all the rocks inside the crust are in a molten, or liquid, state.

This molten rock is called magma.

Magma pushes up against Earth's crust.

In some places where the crust is thin or weak, the magma breaks through and pours out.

That's when a volcano erupts. Gas and magma are ejected from the crater for miles!

When magma pours out of the surface of Earth, it is called lava.

Lava can scorch and destroy entire forests, cities, and even civilizations.

Overflowing lava eventually cools down to form new layers on land. These new layers of rock and soil are rich in minerals.

These minerals are useful to plants and animals.

When volcanoes erupt under water, the lava cools under water and forms a crust.

As more and more lava cools, the crust builds up and finally pops above the surface of the water, to form an island.

The Hawaiian islands were formed in this way.