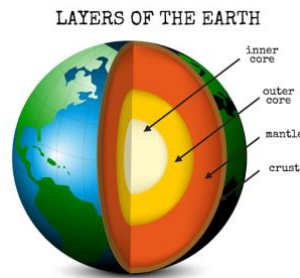


History Topic:

EXTREME EARTH

Year 5

Autumn 1



Background information for teachers and parents

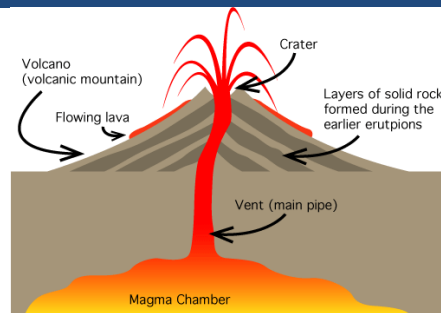
In this unit of work we will helping children to develop their: knowledge and understanding of human and physical geography; locational and place knowledge; and their geographical skills. Children will describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. Children will explore what makes these places extreme.

What is a mountain? How is it formed?

A mountain is a landform that rises high above the surrounding terrain in a limited area. They are made from rocks and earth. Mountains usually have steep, sloping sides and sharp or slightly rounded ridges and peaks. Mountains can be rocky and barren. Some have trees growing on their sides and very high mountains have snow on their peaks. Some common features of mountains include the following: the summit, or the top of a mountain; the slope, or side of the mountain; and a very steep valley between young mountains, known as a gorge. Mountain ranges are long chains or groups of mountains. Ranges are usually 1,000 or more miles long. The Rocky Mountains and the Himalayan Mountains are examples of mountain ranges. At 8,850m, **Everest** is the **highest mountain** in the world.



What is a volcano? Why does it erupt?



A volcano is a landform (usually a mountain) where molten rock erupts through the surface of the planet. In simple terms a volcano is a mountain that opens downward to a pool of molten rock (**magma**) below the surface of the earth. It is a hole in the Earth from which molten rock and gas erupt. There are around **1,510 active volcanoes** in the world. We currently know of 80 or more which are under the oceans. The Earth's crust is made up of huge slabs called **plates**, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. These plates sometimes move. Between the Earth's crust and the mantle is a substance called **magma** which is made of rock and gases. When two plates collide, one section slides on top of the other, the one beneath is pushed down. **Magma** is squeezed up between two plates.

What is an earthquake? Why does it happen?

Earthquakes happen when two large pieces of the Earth's crust suddenly slip. This causes shock waves to shake the surface of the Earth in the form of an earthquake. Earthquakes usually occur on the edges of large sections of the Earth's crust called tectonic plates. These plates slowly move over a long period of time. Sometimes the edges, which are called fault lines, can get stuck, but the plates keep moving. Pressure slowly starts to build up where the edges are stuck and, once the pressure gets strong enough, the plates will suddenly move causing an earthquake.



KEY VOCABULARY

landscape – an area of land that you can see	Settlement – where a community of people live
tectonic plates – an idea that earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called plates . All of earth's land and water sit on these plates . The plates are made of solid rock. Under the plates is a weaker layer of partially melted rock.	magma chamber - a magma chamber is a large pool of liquid rock beneath the surface of the Earth. The molten rock, or magma , in such a chamber is under great pressure, and, given enough time, that pressure can gradually fracture the rock around it, creating a way for the magma to move upward.
summit/peak – top of a mountain	crater – the area around the opening of a volcano
Altitude - height above a certain level and especially above sea level	fault lines - a break or fracture in the ground that occurs when the Earth's tectonic plates move or shift and are areas where earthquakes are likely to occur

KEY CONCEPTS

climate	The usual weather conditions in a place.
biomes	A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and living things.
settlement	A place where people settle (or live) is called a settlement.
resources	A resource is something that human attach a value to due to its usefulness, such as water, oil, coal and wood.
population	The people who live in an area .
transport	A system for carrying people or goods from one place to another using vehicles, roads, etc.
flora and fauna	The plants and animals specific to a habit/biome/country
migration	To move from one region to another.
physical geography	The branch of geograpy dealing with natural features.

How to use this knowledge organiser

Set out in this organiser is what your child will be learning about this term.

Each lesson will either use this knowledge- or build upon it. It is important for your child to regularly read this organiser so that when they meet the learning in class, they already have some prior knowledge; this will enable your child to build a good knowledge base and then use this knowledge in different ways.

You could help your child to build this knowledge by reading the organiser yourself and asking your child some questions about it, for example you could ask your child what specific terms mean (including the key concepts above) or you could quiz them about the different facts presented on the organiser.

Children will be reading these in class too, and will regularly complete short quizzes about what is on them.

Thank you for your continued support.

