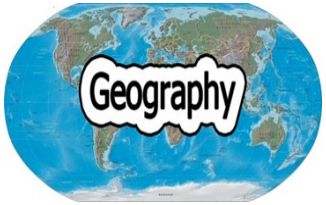
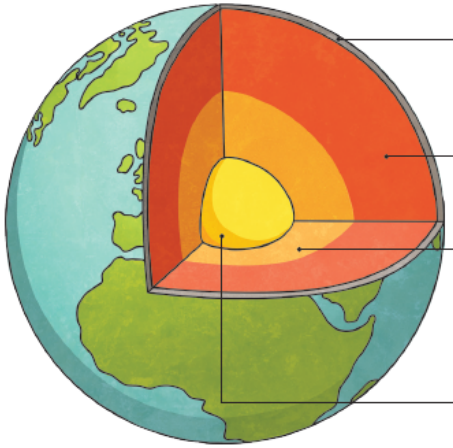
Hillcross Primary School

Natural Disasters: How do volcanoes and earthquakes shape our world?



Year 4 Knowledge organisers

1. What is beneath our feet?



Crust
Thin outer layer. Hard rock. 10km–90km thick.

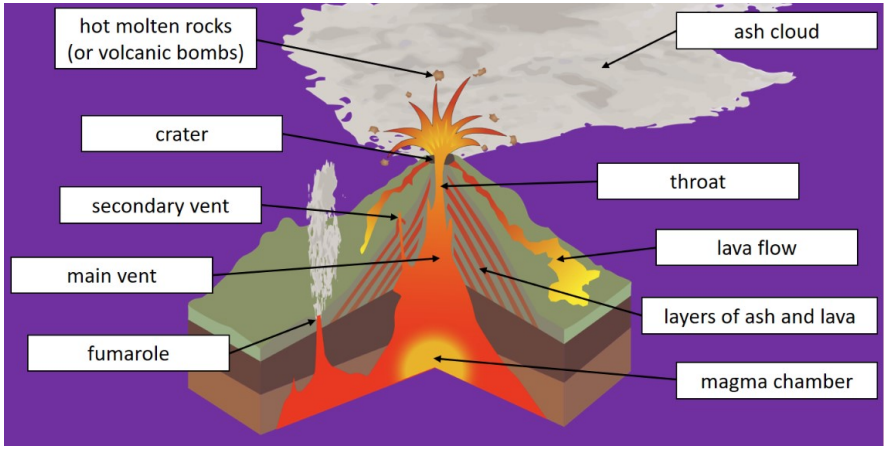
Mantle
Extremely hot rock that flows. 3000km thick.

Outer core
Iron and nickel. Mostly liquid with some rocky parts. 4000°C.

Inner core
Iron and nickel. Hottest layer at over 5000°C.

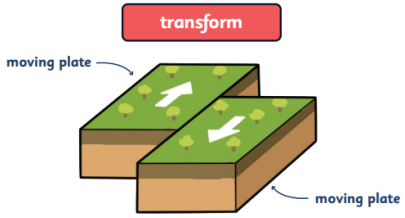
crust	The outermost layer of Earth.
tectonic plate	Pieces of the Earth's crust connected together.
magma	Hot, liquid rock located below the Earth's surface.
Mantle	The second layer in the structure of Earth.
inner/ outer core	The two sections at centre of Earth.

2. What is a volcano and how are they formed?

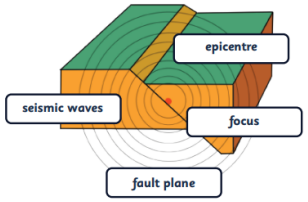


3. What are earthquakes and how are they formed?

An **earthquake** (or quake, tremor) shakes the Earth's surface and is caused by **sudden movement** in the Earth's crust. They can be extremely violent. The rock gets stretched or squeezed as the plates move until it splits. This squeezing and stretching are what cause the ground to **tremble and move**. The movements create **seismic waves**.



The point where the earthquake happens is called the **focus**. **Seismic waves** move out from this point. The point at ground level, directly above the focus, is called the **epicentre**.



27

FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME

4. Why do people live near volcanoes?

- **Volcanic rock** and **ash provide fertile land** which results in a **higher crop yield for farmers**.
- **Tourists are attracted** to the volcano, which **increases money to the local economy.**

Applying Past Knowledge

You will use your past knowledge of physical and human geography to understand that Natural Disasters is physical geography. You will use the skills you learnt of using an Atlas to find different physical features on a map.