

Viscosity

Resistance to flowing. High viscosity fluids flow slowly. Low viscosity fluids flow rapidly

Magma

Melted (molten) rock and dissolved gases inside the Earth.

Lava

Magma that has erupted onto the surface.

Volcano

An opening in the crust that molten rock, ash, and gas escapes through.

Shield volcano

A wide, domed volcano with gently sloped sides. Usually has low viscosity, basaltic lava.

Stratovolcano (composite volcano)

A tall, steep-sided, cone-shaped volcano built up of layers of ash and lava. Often has high viscosity lava and explosive eruptions.

Magma Chamber

A large reservoir in the crust where magma collects before erupting.

Vent

An opening in the crust through which molten rock and gasses escape.

Crater

A bowl-shaped depression at the top of a volcano. Often associated with a central vent.

Pipe

A vertical tube through the crust that connects a vent with its magma source.

Ash cloud

An eruption high into the air of very fine particles. Often ejected to very high altitudes.

Lava flow

A surface stream of lava flowing from a vent.

Pyroclastic flow

Fast moving mass of hot materials and gasses ejected explosively that rushes down the side of a volcano.

Geothermal

Relating to the internal heat of the Earth. This heat can be used for power and heating needs. It also produces features such as geysers and hot springs.

Island Arc

A curved chain of islands usually located next to a subduction zone and deep sea trench.