

Year Group: UKS2

Unit: Explosive Earth and Japan

Subject: Geography

How is our world explosive?

Key Vocabulary:

Earthquake	A shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust.
Volcano	An opening in the Earth's crust where red-hot rocks and gas break to the surface from underground.
Tectonic plates	Any of the several segments of the Earth's crust that move.
Richter Scale	The measure of the strength of the earth's vibrations.
Latitude/longitude	Invisible lines that help us identify a place.
Core	The central part of the earth, beneath the mantle.
Crust	The outer layer of the earth.
Continent	A very large area of land that consists of many countries e.g. Asia.
Ring of Fire	The regions of mountain-building earthquakes and volcanoes which surround the Pacific Ocean.
Magma	Molten rock beneath the surface of the earth.
Mantle	The second layer of the earth which is made up of magma.

Where in the World is Japan?

- The Japanese territory is located in the continent of Asia. It is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, and the East China Sea.

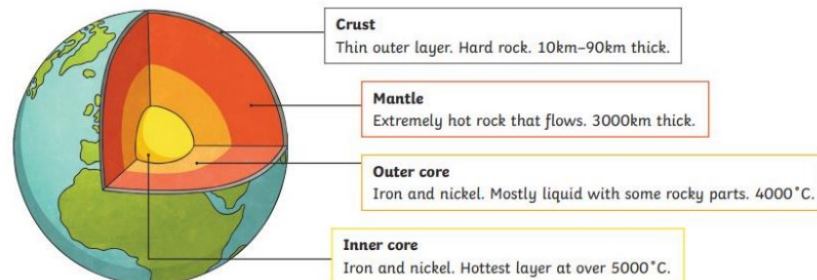


What is the Japanese history and culture?

- The Japanese flag is known as the hinomaru in Japanese, meaning 'circle of the sun'.
- The capital city of Japan is Tokyo, the language they speak is Japanese, their major religion is Buddhism and their currency is the yen.
- Japan is made up of four main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu and 4000 smaller islands.
- Japanese culture includes: calligraphy—their traditional craft, the kimono—their traditional garment, origami, Bushido and Buddhism.
- The Himalayan mountain range is in Japan and includes some of the tallest mountains in the world.

Why does Japan have earthquakes and how do they occur?

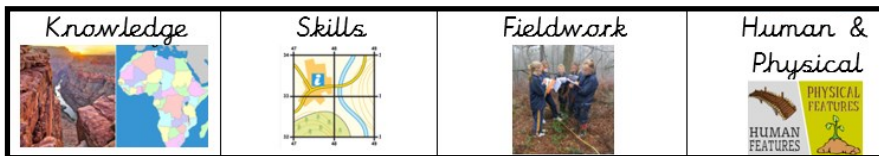
Layers of Earth



Earthquakes

Earthquakes are the sudden violent shaking of the ground. This happens because the Earth's plates are constantly moving. Sometimes, because of **friction**, plates try to move and become stuck. **Pressure** builds up because the plates are still trying to move. When the pressure is released, it sends out huge amounts of **energy** causing the Earth's surface to shake violently. The point inside the Earth's crust where the earthquake originates from is known as the **focus**. The earthquake's energy is released in **seismic** waves and they spread out from the focus. The **epicentre** is the point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus. The seismic waves are most powerful at the epicentre.





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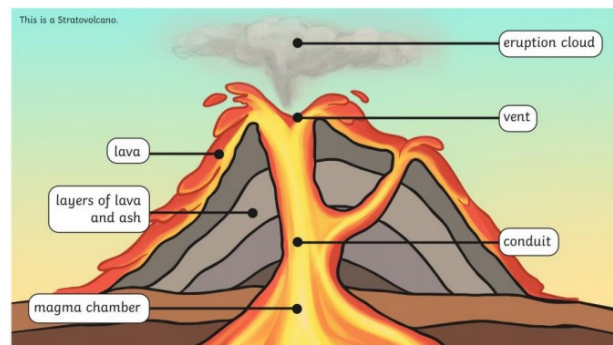
What is the Ring of Fire and where in the world is it located?

- The Ring of Fire is an area of the Pacific Ocean which is home to 75% of the world's volcanoes.
- It contains a string of 452 volcanoes.



What are volcanoes and how are they formed?

- A volcano is an opening in the earth's crust through which lava, volcanic ash and gases escape.
- Volcanoes are formed when magma at the centre of the Earth pushes its way upwards when two tectonic plates collide. When the magma reaches the Earth's surface it cools and hardens into a pile of rock.
- Some volcanoes are underwater.



Why do people live near tectonic hazards and what do you need to survive a natural disaster?

People live near tectonic hazards because...

- Minerals in volcanic ash produce fertile soil so crops grow well.
- People are confident that the government will help if a tectonic disaster occurs.
- Families have always lived in the area.
- Volcanoes attract tourists so there will be lots of jobs in the tourism industry.

To survive a natural disaster...

- Listen to warnings and evacuate if possible.
- Rescue teams search for survivors and treat injuries.
- Provide shelter, food, water and medical supplies.
- Aid from other countries and aid agencies.
- Temporary shelters/water/electricity supplies.

Mount Fuji



Mount Etna



Mount Loa



Earthquake Safety Procedure (Inside)

