

Read, then fill in the blanks.

Volcanoes

Most volcanoes on land form near converging plate boundaries. As one plate moves below another plate, rock partially melts into magma. Magma is a hot liquid material inside Earth. Sometimes the magma is forced to the surface through a weak spot in the lithosphere. This action is called an eruption. The magma that reaches Earth's surface is called lava. Volcanoes can do more than ooze fountains of lava. Gases, such as water vapor and carbon dioxide, are often mixed with the lava. Trapped gases can have enough pressure to blow apart the side of a volcano during an eruption. These trapped gases can push lava high into the air. While it is still in the air, this lava may cool into ash or rock.

Volcanoes can form on continents. They can also build from the ocean floor. A volcanic island forms when a volcano reaches the surface of the water. This is also a constructive process. The state of Hawaii is a string of islands formed in this way.

1. Volcanoes generally form close to _____ plate boundaries.
2. The hot liquid rock inside Earth is called _____.
3. An _____ occurs when magma is forced up through the lithosphere.
4. When magma reaches the Earth's surface, it is called _____, but, when this cools in the air, it can become _____ or _____.

