

World Volcanoes

There are several volcanoes worldwide that have changed our planet and intrigued the human race throughout history.

Mount Hood

Mount Hood is an inactive **stratovolcano** located in Oregon, USA. It stands tall at 3425 metres and its last notable eruption took place on 21st September 1865.

Mount Saint Helens

Located in Washington, USA, Mount Saint Helens is an active stratovolcano that is 2549 metres tall. On 18th May 1980, an explosive eruption took place here and many forests, roads and homes were destroyed. The eruption blew off the top 400 metres of the volcano.

Kilauea

Around 1222 metres tall, Kilauea is one of the most active **shield volcanoes** in the world and is found in Hawaii, USA. From 1983 to 2018 it erupted almost non-stop.

Did You Know...?

Kilauea means 'much spreading' in Hawaiian and in local legend, it is said to be the home of the volcano goddess, Pele.



Mauna Loa

Situated next to Kilauea, Mauna Loa is the largest active shield volcano on the planet and its name means 'long mountain'. It rises 4169 metres and descends another 5km underwater to the ocean floor. Mauna Loa has erupted over 30 times since 1843.



Popocatépetl

Located in Mexico, Popocatépetl means 'smoking mountain' in the Aztec language but it is nicknamed 'El Popo' by locals. El Popo is 5465 metres tall and has had several small eruptions since 2005.

Mount Vesuvius

Located near Naples, Italy, this stratovolcano stands at 1281 metres high and is the only active volcano in mainland Europe. In the last 2000 years, Mount Vesuvius has erupted over 30 times. Its most famous eruption took place on 24th August AD 79, when it erupted and buried the nearby Roman city of Pompeii.



Krakatoa

Located in Indonesia, Krakatoa is a small, uninhabited volcanic island. On 27th August 1883, its volcano of the same name erupted violently, sending ash 50 miles up into the sky and then spread over 300,000 square miles. It blocked out the Sun from the surrounding area for about two and a half days. Many scientists believe that its eruption created the loudest sound ever heard in history.

Mount Fuji

Known as a sacred place and the highest mountain in Japan, Mount Fuji is an active stratovolcano that stands 3776 metres tall. It last erupted on 16th December 1707. It is also a popular mountain to climb.

Mount Etna

Towering at 357 metres above sea level on the island of Sicily, Italy, Mount Etna's name comes from Greek and means 'I burn'. This stratovolcano has one of the longest records of eruptions, dating back to 1500 BC.



shield volcano: A wide, gently sloping volcano.
stratovolcano: A volcano with a steep, cone shape, consisting of hardened layers of ash and lava.

Glossary

Questions

1. Which volcanoes are shield volcanoes? Tick **two**.

- ☐ Mount Hood
- ☐ Mauna Loa
- ☐ Kilauea
- ☐ Mount Vesuvius

2. Which volcano is the largest active shield volcano on the planet? Tick one.

- ☐ Krakatoa
- ☐ Mauna Loa
- ☐ Kilauea
- ☐ Mount Etna

3. Which of these volcanoes is located on an island? Tick one.

- ☐ Mount Etna
- ☐ Mount Hood
- ☐ Mount Vesuvius
- ☐ Popocatépetl

4. Draw **four** lines and match each volcano to its height in metres.

Mount Fuji	5465 metres
Kilauea	1222 metres
Mount Saint Helens	3776 metres
Popocatépetl	2549 metres

5. Look at the section called **Mount Hood**. Can you find a synonym for 'important'?

6. Fill in the missing words.

There are several volcanoes worldwide that have changed our planet and _____
the human race _____ history.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about volcanoes in 25 words or fewer.

8. Would you like to climb Mount Fuji? Explain your answer.
