

Key facts:

The 4 layers of the Earth are: The crust, mantle, outer core and inner core.

The Earth is divided into many tectonic plates – these are where there are weaknesses and splits in the Earth's crust.

Earthquakes are caused when the tectonic plates rub against each other.

Volcanoes allow lava from the Earth's mantle to break through the crust.

The main Pacific Ocean plates make up the Ring of Fire where over 75% of volcanic activity is.

Important questions:

What does each layer of the Earth look like and how does this affect life on the surface?

Why are so many volcanoes situated on the Ring of Fire?

What causes a volcano/earthquake/tsunami?

How can we protect ourselves against these geographic events?

What is the economic/social cost of the Boxing Day tsunami?

Key skills for you to practice:

Use map and atlas reading skills to locate the main tectonic plates and compare how they fit with famous active volcanoes and earthquakes.

Create models to represent tectonic plate movements that cause earthquakes

Use modelling materials to demonstrate the 4 layers of the Earth

Hopton Primary School

Knowledge Organiser for
KS2 Year 6 Topic: Geography - Violent Earth

What do we need to learn?

Understand the structure of the Earth and identify the 4 layers.

Understand that the Earth's surface is divided into moving tectonic plates.

Know that over millions of years the surface of the Earth has changed.

Understand the structure of a volcano and what happens when it erupts.

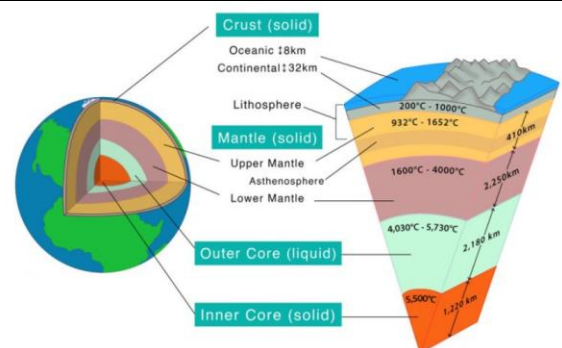
Know the different types of volcanoes.

Understand how an earthquake happens and how the size of one is measured using the Richter scale.

Understand what causes tsunamis and how they form and cause so much destruction.

Understand the human costs of a geographical event using different case studies.

Key Images to discuss



What I should already know:

Year 4	Biomes -how mountains are formed
Year 5	Oceans of the world – atlas skills

Links to Future Learning:

Year 7	Human and physical geography – natural disasters.
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Key Vocabulary:

Word	What does it mean?
Tectonic Plates	The pieces of the Earth's crust and uppermost mantle that keep moving causing many geographic events.
Volcano	A volcano is an opening in Earth's crust. When a volcano erupts, hot gases and melted rock from deep within Earth find their way up to the surface.
Earthquake	Earthquakes happen when two large pieces of the Earth's crust suddenly slip. This causes shock waves to shake the surface of the Earth in the form of an earthquake.
Tsunami	A tsunami is a series of waves in a water body caused by the displacement of a large volume of water due to underwater earthquake or volcano
Richter scale	A scale of numbers used to tell the size of earthquakes.
Ring of Fire	a path along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. 75% of Earth's volcanoes—more than 450 volcanoes—are located along the Ring of Fire.