

Parts Of A Volcano

Volcanoes come in many shapes and sizes but they all have most of the same features. Some are too big to see from the ground. Yellowstone Park in North America is actually the crater of an enormous supervolcano. Most of the actual volcano is underground. The last time it erupted was over 640,000 years ago.

Other volcanoes are more recognisable: a mountain with a crater on the top. Some have more than one crater, as craters can form around the slopes of the volcano.

VENT
All volcanoes have a central vent. This is the opening that allows magma to travel from underneath the Earth's crust to the crater.

LAVA FLOW
Magma becomes lava once it reaches the Earth's surface. Lava forms igneous rocks, such as granite or basalt, as it cools.

ASH CLOUD

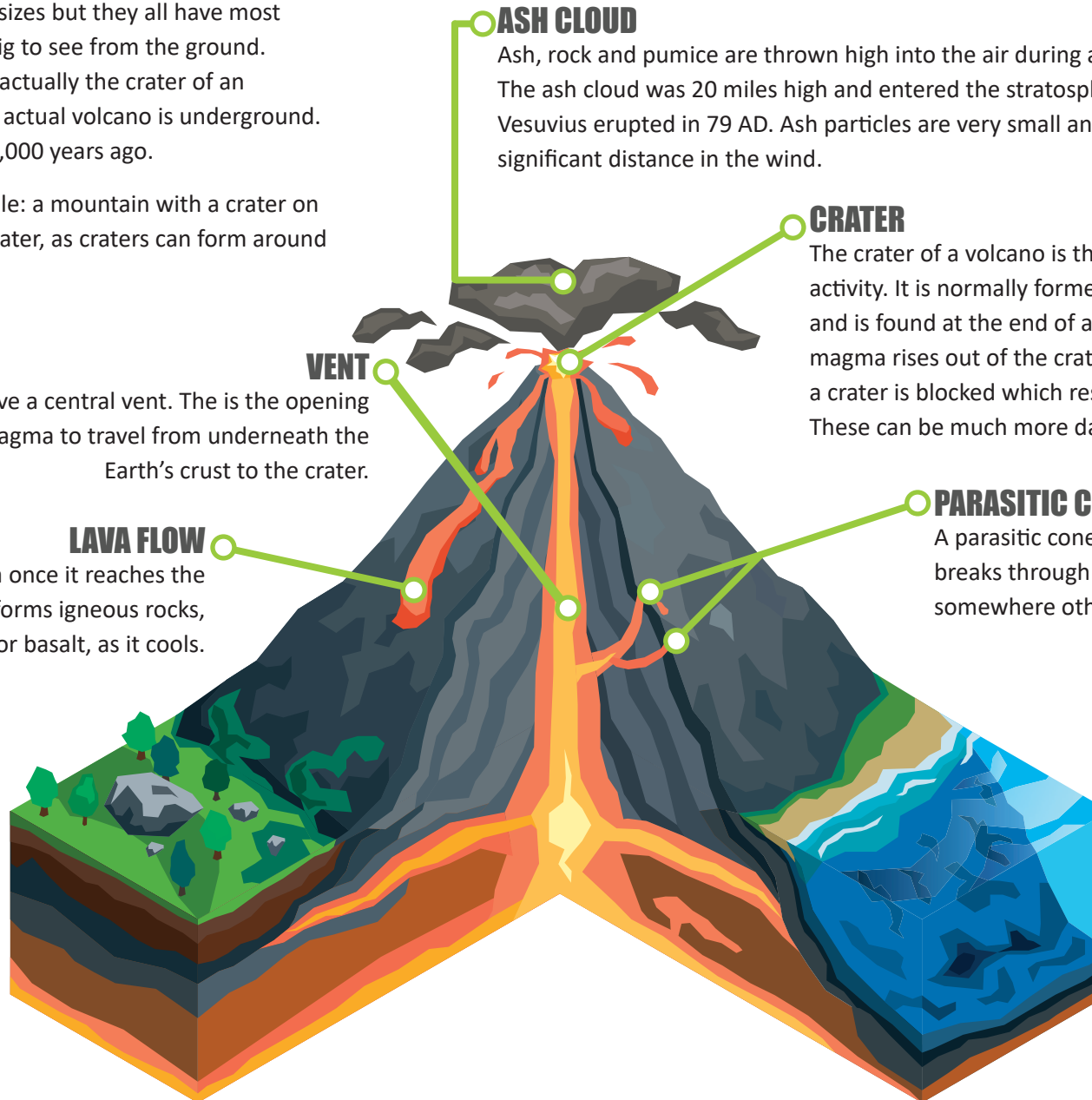
Ash, rock and pumice are thrown high into the air during an eruption. The ash cloud was 20 miles high and entered the stratosphere when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD. Ash particles are very small and can travel a significant distance in the wind.

CRATER

The crater of a volcano is the opening caused by volcanic activity. It is normally formed the first time a volcano erupts and is found at the end of a vent. During an eruption, magma rises out of the craters. Pressure builds up when a crater is blocked which results in an explosive eruption. These can be much more dangerous.

PARASITIC CONE

A parasitic cone forms when magma breaks through the surface of the volcano somewhere other than the main crater.



RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Which type of volcano is Yellowstone Park?
2. Which volcano formed an ash cloud 20 miles high when it erupted?
3. Which type of vent do all volcanoes have?
4. When is a crater normally formed?
5. Find an example of a type of igneous rock.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S

How does a parasitic cone form?

V

Find a word which means that something is easy to identify.

S

When does magma become lava?

V

What impression does the use of the prefix *super* in supervolcano give you?

E

How has the author used the layout to engage the reader?

Answers:

1. A supervolcano
2. Mt. Vesuvius
3. A central vent
4. During a volcano's first eruption
5. Granite or basalt

S: Magma breaks through the surface of the volcano somewhere other than the main crater

V: Recognisable

S: When it reaches the surface of the Earth

V: They are much bigger or more dangerous than normal volcanoes

E: The diagram shows inside a volcano so it is easy to see the separate parts. The headings make it easier to find information. The lines point to each section.