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♥ Marie

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Types of Volcanoes

Not all volcanoes look alike!

There are three main types of volcanoes that form in different ways and have different shapes, materials, and eruption styles.

Shield Volcano

Wide base and gently sloping sides

Built by thin, runny lava flows

Lava can flow long distances

- **Shape:** wide with gentle slopes
- **How it forms:** built by many layers of thin, runny lava
- **Eruption style:** usually less explosive
- **Example:** Mauna Loa (Hawaii)

EXAMPLE:
Mauna Loa
(Hawaii)

Composite Volcano (Stratovolcano)

Tall and steep-sided

Built from layers of lava, ash, and other materials

Can have powerful, explosive eruptions

- **Shape:** tall and steep, often cone-shaped
- **How it forms:** built from many layers of lava, ash, and other volcanic materials
- **Eruption style:** can be explosive
- **Example:** Mount St. Helens (USA) or Mount Fuji (Japan)

EXAMPLE:
Mount St. Helens
(USA)

Cinder Cone Volcano

Steep sides

Built from pieces of volcanic rock (cinders, scoria, and ash)

Usually smaller than other volcanoes

- **Shape:** small and steep with a bowl-shaped crater
- **How it forms:** built from pieces of volcanic rock that fall around an opening
- **Eruption style:** can be explosive
- **Example:** Parícutin (Mexico)

EXAMPLE:
Parícutin
(Mexico)

Compare the Types

Type	Shape	Main Material	Eruption Style	Example
Shield	wide, gentle slopes	thin, runny lava	usually less explosive	Mauna Loa
Composite	tall, steep cone	layers of lava and ash	can be explosive	Mount St. Helens
Cinder Cone	small, steep cone	pieces of rock (cinders)	can be explosive	Parícutin

Did You Know?

- Magma is melted rock beneath Earth's surface.
- Lava is magma that has reached the surface.
- The shape of a volcano depends on the type of magma and the materials it releases.
- Each type of volcano can be found in different places around the world.