



Lava-ly Activities - Teacher's Notes

Volcanoes are a fascinating topic. There is some good background information for teachers available through Geoscience Australia (<http://www.ga.gov.au/education/classroom-resources>) and whilst the activities are designed for older students, you may find one that could be adapted for Kindergarten classes. Aside from the classic building papier mâché volcanoes and reacting vinegar with bicarbonate soda activities, here are some other ways to engage your class.



A good way to introduce students to volcanoes is to start talking about lava. To clarify; **MAGMA** is molten rock that is found under the Earth's surface and **LAVA** is molten rock that has made it's way to the surface.

You can use candle wax to help demonstrate that lava is a liquid that changes to solid rock when cooled. Melt some wax, keeping little fingers well away, and move the liquid wax around a container to show the students it flows like a liquid. Allow the wax to cool completely then pass a piece around to students so they can feel that it is now solid. If possible, have some examples of volcanic rocks to show students like basalt, pumice, scoria, rhyolite and andesite.

There is a cute You Tube clip <https://youtu.be/pNnLCdsc11g> from Dance and Beats Lab named 'Explode, Volcano' which has a song with simple actions you might like to teach your students.

A cartoon with a song that your students may already be familiar with is the short animation from Pixar studios named 'Lava'. It can be found on the special features of the DVD/BluRay of the movie 'Inside Out' and is the story of a volcano who thinks he is all alone. He sings of his hopes for some company, which is heard by a volcano forming under the ocean.





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It shows a little about how some volcanoes form under the ocean and also how volcanoes become dormant or extinct eventually but mostly it is a very sweet love story with some lovely singing.

Students may like to work together to construct a volcano in the sand pit and you could use a hose to run water over the volcano to demonstrate how the shape may change when a volcano erupts. Some internet research will yield before and after eruption photos of volcanoes around the world, which you could show students.



The shape of Mount St Helens in the USA changed dramatically after it erupted in 1980



Another way to construct a volcano that students could use as a play space is to use red and yellow streamers anchored to one point in the ceiling. The streamers are then anchored to the ground in a circular pattern to form a cone shape.

