A volcano is a special kind of hole. The hole lets burning hot material underground escape to the surface. This is called an eruption. Sometimes the material explodes into the sky. Other times it flows out calmly.

There are different kinds of volcanoes. Some volcanoes are active. This means they are still erupting. They have erupted recently or will erupt soon.

Other volcanoes are asleep. They are not erupting right now. But if they wake up, they might erupt again.

Some volcanoes are done erupting. These volcanoes are dead. Many have not erupted for thousands of years.

**What Causes Volcanoes?**

Volcanoes shoot out lava and gas. Lava is melted rock. It comes from deep inside the Earth. When the lava is still underground, it is called magma.

Magma can erupt for different reasons.
Sometimes the land pulls apart over time. Then there is a space in the middle. Magma rises up to fill in the space. This can even happen underwater. There are volcanoes deep in the ocean.

Sometimes the land squeezes together. This pushes some of the land deeper into the Earth. The heat underground melts the land. It turns into magma and rises.

Magma also rises over hot spots. These are hot places inside of the Earth. They heat up the magma. Then the magma rises.

**Are There Volcanoes On Other Planets?**

Volcanoes are not just on Earth. They are also on other planets and moons. There are dead volcanoes on the planets Venus and Mars.

Other places in space still have active volcanoes. There are some on the moons of Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. They are still exploding right now.