

# Active Planet- Volcanoes and Earthquakes



## Topic Overview

The children will uncover the secrets of the natural world and discover how fragile our world is. They will explore volcanoes and earthquakes closely and will research how particular localities have become affected by both of these natural disasters. The children will learn all about climate change and how this is affecting our planet. They will look closely at how sustainability can help. The children will put their survival skills to the test when the school is turned into a natural disaster area and will even get the opportunities to make their own exploding volcanoes!

Year 4 Spring Term



As a **Geographer**, the children will explore key aspects of physical geography by understanding how and why volcanoes are formed, looking at and labeling the Earth and its layers. They will also locate volcanoes on a world map, and explain the events in a volcano's life. They will then explore earthquakes and discuss the movement of tectonic plates. They will look at how earthquakes are measured, and explore why some houses are more stable in earthquakes than others.



As an **Artist**, the children will create explosive paintings of volcanic eruptions.



As a **Designer**, the children will design and make a working model of a volcano. The volcano will be evaluated for purpose and appearance.



As a **Musician**, the children will compose and perform a song with several layers of sound. They will relate their compositions to an exploding volcano.



As a **Data Handler**, the children will research volcanoes and earthquakes, as well as watch videos to get a better understanding of the disasters. They will also research and find facts about certain volcanoes. They will use this to create a volcano fact file presenting the data in an aesthetically pleasing way.



## WOW Events:

Hook - Trip to the Life Centre, Newcastle  
Showcase - presenting their volcanoes to parents.  
Perform their own song as a group to parents.



## Rights Respecting School Links

Articles 24, 27, 37, 38 and 39.



## Links to prior learning:

Year 1/2: The Mighty Redcar  
Year 1/2: Fire, Fire!



## SMSC Links:

The children will be looking into natural disasters and how this has impacted on people's lives. They will also be looking into how different people live their lives e.g. if they live close to a volcano, how is this different to where we live?



As a **Writer**, the children will write a narrative based on the book 'Escape from Pompeii' They will also write and explanation text, exploring how volcanoes affect people's lives. They will discuss the pros and cons of living close to a volcano, and create information leaflets on this matter.