



Rocks from volcanoes

Many rocks begin in the fiery fountains of volcanoes.

How do rocks come to make up the surface of the Earth? Many of them come from erupting volcanoes.

Liquid rock

Deep underground the rock is liquid. From time-to-time it bursts to the surface and forms a volcanic eruption (Pictures 1 and 2).

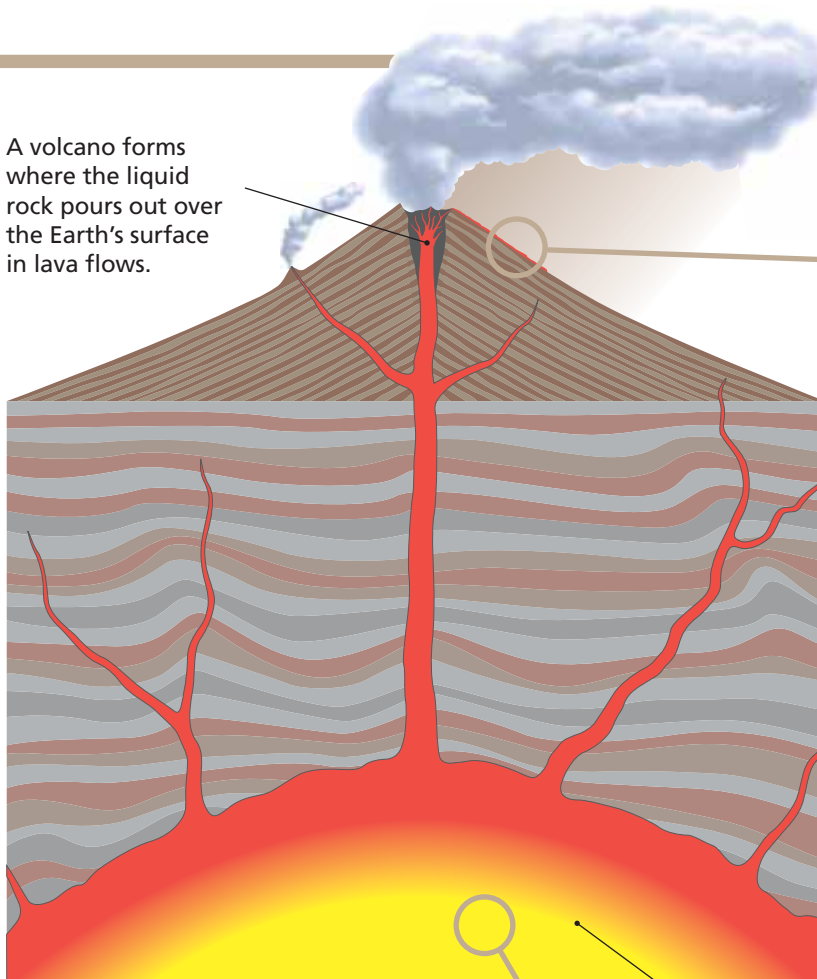
Lava

The runny material bursting from a volcano is called **LAVA**. It is red hot and flows over the land like a river (Picture 2). As it cools, however, it loses its red colour and turns black. The cooled material is hard rock (Picture 3).

▼ (Picture 1) This is a volcano erupting lava.



A volcano forms where the liquid rock pours out over the Earth's surface in lava flows.



▲ (Picture 2) This is how a volcano works: Liquid rock in a chamber deep below the surface bursts up through cracks and erupts at the surface.

Chamber of liquid rock.

Granite is white or grey with specks of other colours in it.



► (Picture 3)
This is a piece
of cooled lava.

▼ (Picture 4) Underground, the liquid rock cools slowly to make granite rock.

Granite

When the eruption is over, hard black rock lies all around the volcano. The liquid rock still underground begins to cool too. In time it forms a rock called **GRANITE**.

Granite is a white or grey rock with specks of other colours in it (Picture 4).

Summary

- Volcanic rocks include lava and granite. All volcanic rocks are made from liquid rock.
- Granite is a hard, grey speckled rock.