



Geology

Volcanic Pressure

Volcanoes are ruptures in the crust where matter from beneath the surface can escape. This matter can be lava, ash, or even gases. This easy activity shows how gas can build up so much pressure that it eventually forces its way out of a volcano.



Supplies

- One (1) Metal Funnel
- One (1) Skillet
- One (1) Piece of Modeling clay (about the size of your thumb)
- Two (2) Cups of Water



Challenge

Observe how pressure builds during an eruption!

1. Flatten out your piece of modeling clay and use this to cover the narrow end of the funnel.
2. Pour the water into the skillet and place on a stove.
3. Turn stove on to a medium heat.
4. When little bubbles start to form, place the funnel large-end down into the water.
5. Turn up the heat and stand back!



Questions

1. What kind of gases do you think are in a volcano?
2. How long did it take for your clay to pop off the top?
3. What volcanoes can you name? How many of those are active?

