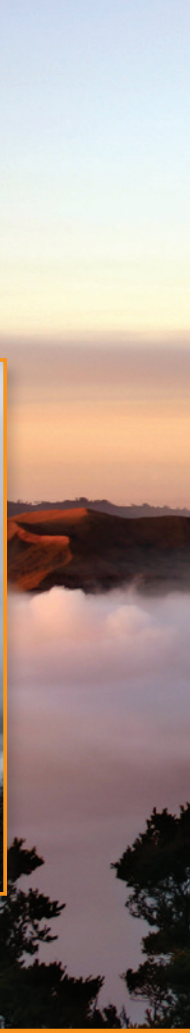


Volcano



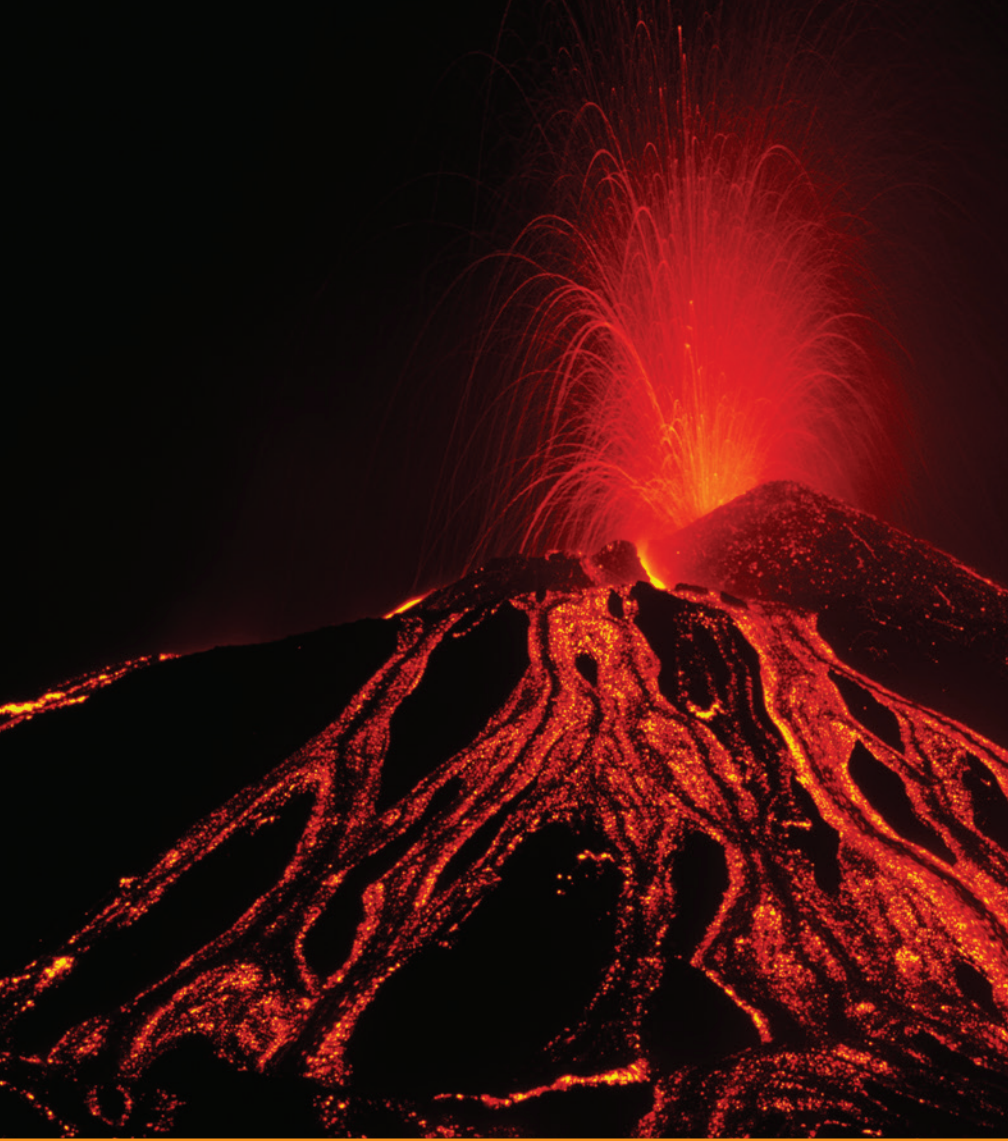
Long ago, people thought that powerful gods lived inside **volcanoes.**



The word *volcano* comes from Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.



When the gods were angry, people believed they would spit fire, ash, and **lava** onto the land.



Today, we know that
volcanoes are a part of nature.



Scientists work hard to learn more about volcanoes and why they happen.

Why Volcanoes Happen

A volcano starts as a big, deep hole or crack in Earth's surface. When **pressure** builds, ash, rock, gas, and **magma** escape through the hole. In time, the escaped material can form a mountain.





Magma (MAG-muh) is hot, melted rock.