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Much of the planet's mantle consists of magma. This magma can push through holes or cracks in the crust, causing a volcanic eruption. When magma flows or erupts onto Earth's surface, it is called lava. Like solid rock, magma is a mixture of minerals.

[Magma - National Geographic Society](#) : encyclopedia : magma

A volcano is a feature in Earth's crust where molten rock is squeezed out onto the Earth's surface. This molten rock is called magma when it is beneath the surface and lava when it erupts, or flows out, from a volcano. Along with lava, volcanoes also release gases, ash, and, solid rock.

[Plate Tectonics and Volcanic Activity - National Geographic Education](#) : resource : plate-tectonics-volcanic-acti...

They do disturb the Earth's ionosphere, however, which in turn disturbs radio communications. Along with energetic ultraviolet radiation, they heat the Earth's outer atmosphere, causing it to expand.