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### Volcanic Vocabulary Terms & Definitions

**CRUST:** the solid top layer of the earth, including the continents and the land under the oceans

**MANTLE:** the liquid layer of the earth below the crust

**MAGMA:** hot molten (liquid) rock below the earth's surface

**LAVA:** hot molten rock that flows from a volcano

**PLATES:** large chunks of the earth's crust that "float" on top of the mantle

**VENT:** the opening through which volcanic material comes out

**CRATER:** a large hole formed by the explosion or collapse of a volcanic vent

**LAVA LAKE:** a pool of molten lava contained in a vent or crater

**HOTSPOT:** area in the earth's crust where magma rises and pushes through the surface