



# YEAR 3 THE AMAZING WORLD OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY



## WHAT IS PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY?

Physical geography is the study of our planet. It helps us learn about the land, water, air, and many other natural parts of Earth. This subject is very exciting because it shows us how nature works and changes over time.

## VOLCANOES: MOUNTAINS WITH A SURPRISE

A volcano is a special kind of mountain. Sometimes, a volcano erupts. During an eruption, hot lava, ash, and gas come out of the volcano. Lava is melted rock that is extremely hot. When the lava cools, it turns into hard rock. Volcanoes can create new land, and they are one of the many ways that nature changes the Earth.

## HOW DO VOLCANOES WORK?

Deep inside the Earth, there is a lot of heat. This heat can melt rocks, making them soft. When the pressure becomes too strong, the volcano erupts to release the pressure. This eruption pushes out lava and ash, which can create new land or change the shape of the mountain. Scientists study volcanoes to learn more about our planet and to help people stay safe.

## EARTHQUAKES: WHEN THE EARTH SHAKES

An earthquake happens when the ground begins to move and shake. The Earth is made of large pieces called tectonic plates. These plates are always moving, even if very slowly. When the plates bump into each other or slide past one another, the ground shakes. This shaking is what we call an earthquake. Although earthquakes can sometimes be frightening, they are a natural part of the Earth and help scientists learn how the planet works.

## PLATE TECTONICS: EARTH'S HIDDEN PUZZLE

The Earth is like a giant puzzle made up of many pieces. These pieces are called tectonic plates. They fit together to cover the Earth like a big jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes, the plates move away from each other, and other times they push against each other. This movement can cause volcanoes to erupt and



earthquakes to occur. By studying plate tectonics, scientists can understand why our planet changes its shape and how to protect people when these natural events happen.

## LEARNING AND STAYING SAFE

Studying volcanoes, earthquakes, and tectonic plates is very important. When scientists learn more about these events, they can help keep people safe. They create plans and warnings to prepare us for eruptions or earthquakes. By understanding physical geography, we learn to respect the power of nature and to work together to stay safe during natural events.

## CONCLUSION

Physical geography is full of amazing discoveries. Volcanoes erupt and create new land, earthquakes shake the Earth, and moving plates shape our planet. Each part of the Earth is connected, and by learning about these natural events, we can better understand our world. Let us continue to explore, learn, and respect the beautiful and powerful planet we call home.

## FIND OUT MORE...

[BBC Bitesize Volcanoes and Earthquakes](#)

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### EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is physical geography and why is it important?
2. What happens when a volcano erupts?
3. How does lava change when it cools down?
4. Why do earthquakes occur when tectonic plates move?
5. How do scientists use their knowledge of volcanoes and earthquakes to help keep people safe?