



## *The Gigantic Power of Nature*

**Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes** are among nature's most impressive and terrifying phenomena. Nothing and no one can withstand them. What appears to be invincible can change in the blink of an eye. Beautiful mountains can erupt into fire-breathing monsters.

Do you know what causes earthquakes, and the reason why they occur in different locations? Are you aware of the substances which erupt from volcanoes? Though scientists offer many answers to these questions, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes will always remain somewhat mysterious. That's what makes them so fascinating!



## *It's Boiling Hot Beneath Our Feet*

The earth on which we stand seems remarkably substantial. But that's only the outside: the **earth's crust**. The crust is actually very thin. Just 2 miles beneath our feet, the ground becomes warmer and warmer until it eventually becomes scorching hot. At nearly 2 ½ miles deep, the temperature surpasses 200 degrees—and at 37 miles, it could melt everything that stands upon the earth's crust. The earth's crust floats upon **magma**, a thick, hot, soupy substance beneath the crust. Though no human has ever descended into magma, it has erupted into the air through cracks in the earth's crust. This is how volcanoes are formed. Volcanoes show us what the earth looks like beneath our feet. Magma becomes lava.

