What is Volcanism?

- A <u>volcano</u> is a <u>mountain</u> that forms when magma reaches the Earth's surface.
- Magma develops and collects in areas called magma chambers.
- Magma is <u>less dense</u> <u>than the solid rock</u> around it.
- Magma can also easily <u>migrate</u> (flow) if a structural zone allows movement.



• When a rupture on the crust is present, magma <u>rises</u> to the surface and escapes, resulting in volcanism.

Volcano Distribution during the current geological epoch

Activity since 1900, Activity since ~11700 YA

5,000 km

0

Volcanic Activity

<u>Active</u> - activity present in the last few centuries:

≻ Mauna Loa, HI (1984)

Mt. St. Helens, WA (1980)

 <u>Dormant</u> - "quiet" for the last hundreds to thousands of years, but still have potential to erupt:

Mt. Elbrus, Russia (~2000 years ago)

- Extinct no eruption in historical times, unlikely to erupt again, <u>no</u> longer have magma supply:
 - Castle Rock, Edinburgh, Scotland (~350 million years ago)









Notable Volcanoes

Mt. Erebus, Antarctica Southernmost active volcano on Earth.





NOW

THEN

• Krakatoa, Indonesia

1883 explosive eruption produced huge tsunamis as well as loudest sound ever heard in modern history.



Volcanic Eruption: Non-explosive

 Most volcanoes erupt <u>basalt</u>, a fluid low viscosity lava that erupts *effusively* (quietly) and forms *flows* with occasional *fountains*.









Flood Basalts



- Multiple, "quiet" eruptions
- Lava *plateau* forms

 Large (10-100 square miles) outpourings of very low viscosity basaltic lava



 Flood basalt volcanism has been connected to major mass extinction events in the past.

Volcanic Eruption: Explosive

Very high viscosity magma prevents the release of volcanic gases; gases accumulate, and the magma pressure builds up... until it is blasted out in an explosion!





dust, gas and pyroclastic material up to 20 km into the atmosphere.

Explosive Eruption Diagram

