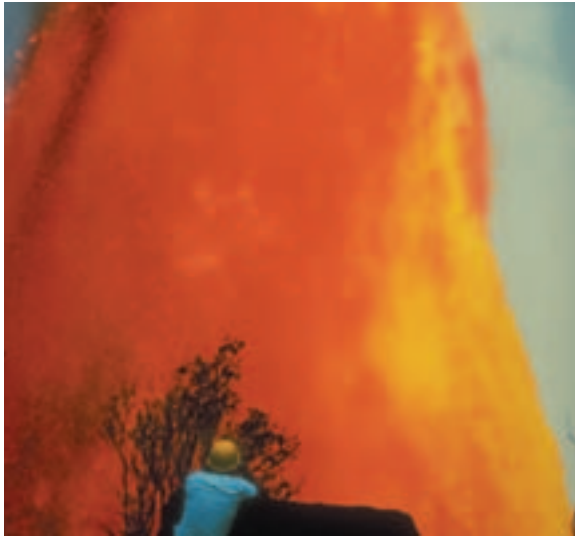




Why Is Our Dynamic Planet Important?

Dynamic means powerful or active. Our dynamic planet is a powerful, active, ever-changing planet. Powerful events like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions have been happening since the Earth formed, over 4.5 billion years ago. Every feature of our planet changes, on time scales that range from minutes to millions of years. The deepest oceans, the highest mountain peaks—all represent but a page in the volume of Earth's history. Mountains have been destroyed, recycled, and reborn. Oceans have risen and fallen.



These processes are still at work today. Knowledge about present-day volcanic eruptions and earthquakes give clues about the past. Rocks, landforms, and fossils also provide evidence of a long and varied history of the Earth. Knowing about our dynamic planet will help you to understand the past and prepare for the future.

What Will You Investigate?

You will look for evidence and help solve some of the puzzles surrounding Earth processes. Here are some of the things that you will investigate:

- how scientists make and use models;
- what the inside of the Earth is like;
- how the Earth's surface moves;
- how mountains form;
- what causes earthquakes.

You will need to practice your problem-solving skills. You will also need to be good observers and recorders, as you work together with other members of your class.

In the last investigation you will have a chance to apply all that you have learned about our dynamic planet. You will investigate a natural hazard in depth. Then you will design a brochure to provide information to residents of a community on how to prepare for, and protect against, natural disasters.

