Marine Academy Primary, Trevithick Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 2AF
T: 01752 213939 W: http://www.marineacademy.org.uk/primary/
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Monday 10th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers of Marine Academy Primary **Year 3** pupils,

Each term, we send you a letter to let you know what your child will be learning about in each subject. This term, Year 3 will be learning about **Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes** in their **Geography** lessons and will find answers to the following questions before using their knowledge to produce an end of unit piece at the end of the term:

1. What is the earth made of?
2. What are fold mountains?
3. How are volcanoes made?
4. How does an earthquake occur?
5. What happens when a volcano erupts?
6. What is the impact of a volcano?

Mountains can join up with other mountains to make up a range. Mountains are very rocky and difficult to grow things on. Also, the higher the mountain goes up, the colder it gets – this means different kinds of plants and animals might live at the top of a mountain than at the bottom, depending on just how high it is. A knowledge organiser sharing all of the information that the children will learn about in their Geography lessons is attached - please feel free to use this with your child to develop their knowledge and understanding at home.

In **English**, the children's writing will be based on the books 'Mimi and the Mountain Dragon' by Michael Morpurgo and 'Great fire of London', where they will be writing a chronological report. In their **Whole Class Reading** sessions, they will be studying 'One Christmas Wish' by Katherine Rundell and 'The Proudest Blue' by Ibtihaj Muhammad.

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In **Maths**, children will learn some more about addition and subtraction, including estimation and problem solving before focusing on multiplication and division.

In **Science**, the children will learn about the Rock Cycle, including the steps in the rock cycle, how sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rock is formed and how to identify the different types of rock. In **RE**, the children will explore the question 'What is it like for someone to follow God?' and in **SMSC** (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education) the children will learn about 'Valuing Difference'. In **Design Technology** lessons, the children will be designing and making a toy using pneumatic systems. Throughout their **Music** lessons this term, the children will be learning to control their voice when singing. In **PE,** they will be learning gymnastics and dance. Their PE lessons will be on Tuesdays.

If you ever have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to their class teacher or email year3@marineacademyprimary.org.uk. We can't wait for another term filled with lots of magnificent learning!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Livv Godbeer
Year 3 Class Teacher

Miss Autumn Widdison
Year 3 Class Teacher

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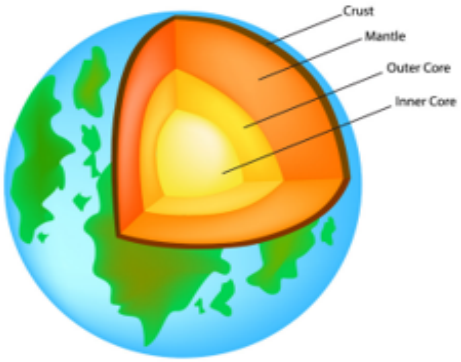
Knowledge Organiser – Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes - Year 3

Vocabulary	Definition
Magma	Molten rock in the mantle.
Tectonic plate	A section of the Earth's crust.
Plate margin	The line between two tectonic plates.
Mountain range	A line of mountains.
Fold mountain	Mountains formed when tectonic plates collide and cause the plates to wrinkle.
Volcano	A mountain that erupts magma, rock, ash and gas.
Earthquake	The sudden movement of tectonic plates to create violent shaking.
Tsunami	Large ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption.

Structure of the Earth	
Crust	solid rock; broken into tectonic plates
Mantle	Solid/molten rock
Outer Core	liquid metal; iron and nickel
Inner Core	solid metal; iron and nickel



How do Earthquakes occur?

- They occur when tectonic plates jolt forward after getting stuck.

Why does the UK not usually experience large Earthquakes?

- The UK is not situated on the edge of a tectonic plate.

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Knowledge Organiser – Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes -Year 3

How are Earthquakes recorded?

- They are recorded on the Richter Scale from 0-10.

Richter Magnitude	Earthquake effects
0-2	Not felt by people
2-3	Very light tremors felt by people
3-4	Ceiling lights may swing
4-5	Walls may crack
5-6	Furniture may move
6-7	Some buildings are likely to collapse
7-8	Many buildings are likely to be destroyed
8-10	Total destruction of buildings, bridges and roads

Major Natural Disasters

Location	Tohoku Earthquake, Japan	Fuego Volcano, Guatemala
Primary Effects	16,000 people died, 6000 people were injured, many buildings and houses were destroyed.	110 people died, 300 people were injured, many buildings and houses were destroyed.
Secondary Effects	Tsunami wave caused flooding.	Crops were destroyed causing hunger for many people.
Immediate Responses	Food, water, tents and medical care were supplied to people.	Rescue trapped people.
Long-term Responses	Roads and houses needed to be rebuilt.	Roads and houses needed to be rebuilt.

Earthquake in Haiti (2021)

Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004)

Volcano in Iceland (2021)

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