Hot Hot Hot

Hot Spots: hot places deep within Earth's mantle, volcanoes that form in the middle of tectonic plates

How do hot spots work????

Step 1:

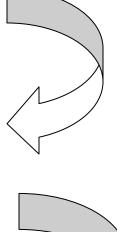
Plate passes over hot spot and volcano forms

Step 2:

When plate moves, old volcano becomes dormant. New volcano forms over hot spot and is active.

Step 3:

Plate keeps moving and process repeats.



Hawaiian Islands notes

- 1. Most of Earth's volcanoes are formed along convergent and divergent plate boundaries. However, volcanoes can also form in the middle of a tectonic plate. If it does this, it is called a hot spot.
- 2. The chain of volcanic Hawaiian Islands are made up of 80 large volcanoes called Hawaii Ridge-Emperor Seamount Chain. This chain formed over millions of years ago.

- 3. A seamount is a volcanic peak that rises at least 3300 feet above the ocean floor. The oldest one in the chain is 74 million years old. Older seamounts have been eroded by wind and waves.
- 4. Loihi is the name of the most recent seamount that has formed. Scientists think that is only a few hundreds years old. It will not surface above the water for another 50,000 years.
- 5. The Hawaiian hot spots currently feeds the volcanoes Mauna Loa and Kilauea on the island of Hawaii.

Rifting: process that occurs at divergent plate boundaries

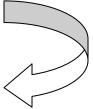
How does rifting work???

Step 1: Magma rises through the crust, lifts it up, and causes fractures (cracks) in the crust.

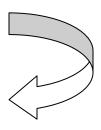
Step 2: Crust pulls apart, faults open, and blocks fall inward. Volcanoes begin to erupt. Rift valley forms.

Step 3: Rift valley widens, allowing sea water to fill basin that has formed.

Step 4: New rift begins in the middle of the ocean basin that was formed. Rift is called a mid-ocean ridge.







The Great Rift Valley of Africa

- 1. Rifting is a process that occurs at divergent plate boundaries. As two plates separate, magma in the asthenosphere oozes upward to fill the newly formed gap.
- 2. Over the past 25 to 35 millions years, continental rifting has been pulling eastern Africa apart. Where this is happening is called the Great Rift Valley. This is where humans encountered their first volcanoes. The place where the three rifts meet is called the Afar Triangle.
- 3. Some of the oldest human remains were found in this area. Some of the world's oldest volcanoes are found here including Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro. It also contains some of Earth's deepest lakes.

