

Name _____



10 Minutes with Science: Geographical Accidents

Volcano: Openings in the ground, and more commonly in a mountain, where smoke, flames, and burning materials go out from time to time

MOUNT VESUVIUS



Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano in the area of Naples, Italy. Being an active volcano implies that it can erupt at any time. This is very dangerous because it is about nine kilometers from the city of Naples, where about a million people live.

Its formation is the result of the clash of two tectonic plates, the Eurasian and the African. It is the only active volcano located in mainland Europe and measures 1,281 meters high.

Mount Vesuvius is not the only active Italian volcano. Etna and Stromboli are two other active volcanoes. All of them have erupted in the twentieth century with terrible consequences for Europe. It would be a serious problem if they were to erupt now because they could devastate entire cities and cause the death of thousands of people, animals, and plants. Also, dust and ashes expelled would cause such a mess in the air that no aircraft could fly over a large part of Europe.

