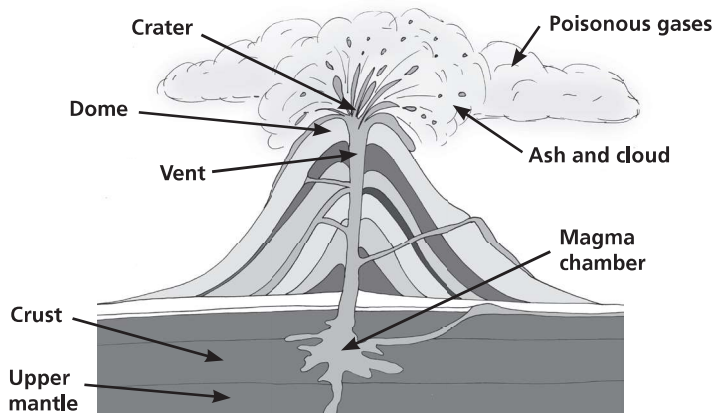




VOLCANOES



*The beast begins to stir.
Suddenly he wakes!
His rage bursting forth,
With a mighty cry,
His blazing anger licks the sky.
Devouring everything in its path,
His wrath is unleashed,
His fury is unstoppable.*

When a volcano erupts, we witness one of the most spectacular displays of nature's power known to man. Exactly when these beasts of beauty will wake, even vulcanologists do not know. But when they do, the cost can be great, not only to towns and farmland but also to human life.

Here is a list of the top ten most deadly volcanic eruptions to date:

NAME	PLACE	YEAR	NUMBER OF DEAD
Tambora	Jambawa, Indonesia	1815	92 000
Krakatau	Krakatau, Indonesia	1883	36 500
Mont Peleé	Martinique, West Indies	1902	29 000
Nevado del Ruiz	Armero, Colombia	1985	25 000
Mount Etna	Sicily, Italy	1669	20 000
Mount Vesuvius	Bay of Naples, Italy	79 CE	20 000
Kelut	Java, Indonesia	1586	10 000
Laki	Iceland	1783	9500
Santa Maria	Guatemala, Central America	1902	6000
Kelut	Java, Indonesia	1919	5000

And yet it would be unfair of us to simply view volcanoes as sleeping devils, waiting to be woken from their slumber and hell-bent on destroying everything before them. For when the beast falls back to sleep, and he will, then the ash and the lava that he has spewed forth will cool and harden and help shape the very Earth in which we live.

So just keep an eye on him for now. He is sound asleep, isn't he? And if he does begin to stir once more, then stand back in amazement and pray you're not standing in his way.