



Lava flows out of Kīlauea's Pu'u 'Ō'ō Crater, one of the spots where lava escapes from the volcano.

Kīlauea means "spewing" in Hawaiian.

# Lava Rocks!



Earth's changes are usually slow. Wind and water reshape rocks. Land rises or falls. Continents shift. These

changes can take millions of years. They are so gradual that humans don't notice them happening.

There are spots, however, where change is rapid and dramatic. Land is created and destroyed, forests burn away, cracks open in the earth. One such spot is Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. With two of the world's most **active volcanoes**, this park is prone to sudden, violent change.

## Hot Spots

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is on Hawai'i's Big Island. The state's land isn't just home to volcanoes. It's made by them! Under Earth's crust is a layer of hot melted rock, or **magma**. When magma bursts through the crust, it is called lava. Millions of years ago, magma began erupting from the seafloor. The lava collected and hardened, forming more than 130 islands and many volcanoes!

## The People of Hawai'i

About 1,600 years ago, people first arrived on the islands. They were sailors from Polynesia. Using the stars to navigate, they had traveled more than 2,000 miles (3,219 kilometers) in canoes. Much of Hawaiian culture is based on what these sailors brought with them. They brought animals and plants, such as taro—a potato-like vegetable—for food. They also brought music, dances, and other cultural elements.

## Timeline of a Hot History



**400 CE**  
Polynesians discover the Hawaiian Islands.

8

**1778**

Captain James Cook lands on the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i. He and his crew are the first Europeans on the islands.



**1835**

American settlers start growing sugar on the islands. It becomes an important crop.



**1898**

Hawai'i becomes a U.S. territory.

**1916**

Hawai'i National Park (now Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park) becomes the country's 13th national park.



**1959**

Hawai'i becomes the 50th state.



**1983**

Kilauea begins its most recent eruption. It hasn't stopped since.



**2018**

Kilauea experiences new, violent eruptions. They cause destruction in and around the park.

9

THE **BIG** TRUTH!

# Inside a Volcano

Earth is made up of four basic layers: the inner core, the outer core, the mantle, and the crust. Extreme pressure and heat deep inside the planet melts the rock into magma, which makes up part of the mantle. Magma can reach Earth's surface through a volcano. There are more than 1,500 active volcanoes on Earth. Check out how they erupt.

**1** SOME MAGMA RISES TO Earth's crust. It collects in pools called magma chambers.

**2** GAS BUBBLES BUILD UP IN THE magma. They cause the magma to push out of a volcano's vents, or openings. This is similar to what happens when you shake a bottle of soda, and then open the cap.

**3** THE MAGMA ERUPTS from the volcano, becoming lava. It may escape through the top vent or through fissures along the side of the volcano. Ash, gases, and chunks of solid rock burst out, too.

**4** THE LAVA COOLS and hardens into rock. Sometimes it creates new pieces of land.

