

# Types of Volcanoes

## What is a Volcano?

- A volcano is a place where molten rock and gas escape from a magma chamber.
- The composition of the magma is directly related to the volcano's shape.
- There are many different types of volcanoes that differ in height, shape, and steepness.

### Study Tip

The type of a volcano determines how a volcano erupts and the types of magma they expel.

## The Different Types of Volcanoes

### Composite Volcanoes

Constructed from felsic to intermediate rock, often very steep



Explosive eruption due to the extreme viscosity of lava, creating high pressure

### Shield Volcanoes

Large, not steep, often located near intraplate hotspots or spreading centers



Non-explosive eruption, lava is fluid and spreads further, creates a less steep structure.  
Lava has low viscosity

### Cinder Cone Volcanoes

Small, cone-shaped, steep, grows rapidly from a single eruption cycle



Usually erupts strongly once, shoots up rocks called pumice up in the air.

## Concept Check

- What is a volcano?
- Compare and contrast the three types of volcanoes through their shapes and eruptions.