HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS

WAX VOLCANO

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CHEMISTRY Wax Volcano

In this activity we are going to focus on exactly how the molten rock comes through the solid crust of the Earth, and make our own volcano! You will see how magma (molten rock below ground) comes to the surface and how lava (molten rock above ground) forms a volcano. You may also see other interesting features that can also form during a volcanic eruption. By comparing your volcano to those of your classmates, you will be able to see how many different features can form when a volcano erupts.

Procedure

You will need a large heatproof glass or medium sized beaker, a Bunsen burner, a tripod, a heatproof mat, red wax, sand and very cold water.

- Fill the beaker with red wax to a depth of 2 cm
- Cover the wax with 2 cm of sand
- Fill the beaker with water until it is two thirds full
- Place the beaker and its contents on the tripod
- Heat the beaker with the Bunsen burner until the wax starts to melt, and follow the investigative steps

Investigation

- Write down your observations as you see the contents of the beaker change. What do you see happening?
- Draw a sketch of your volcano, including any interesting features that you can see, and discuss how and why these features may have formed
- If you have enough wax, reheat the beaker and write down any further observations. Draw another sketch of the second volcanic eruption and compare it to your first sketch. How has the volcano changed? Compare similarities and differences with another group.
- How would you describe the shape of your volcano? Think about why it may be this shape before the next activity, where we will investigate the science behind the shape of a volcano!

VIDEOS FOR THIS RESOURCE AT:

INTRODUCTION:

Clickable Link:
https://youtu.be/DEox4S2TiA0

CONCLUSION:

Clickable Link:
https://youtu.be/cZvpjU2u-Ic

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