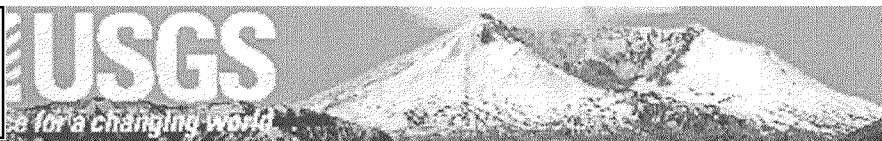


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USGS/Cascades Volcano Observatory, Vancouver, Washington

Glossary of Volcano and Related Terminology

Aa:

- Aa (pronounced "ah-ah" - a Hawaiian term), is lava that has a rough, jagged, spiny, and generally clinkery surface. In thick aa flows, the rubbly surface of loose clinkers and blocks hides a massive, relatively dense interior. (*Tilling, Heliker, and Wright, 1987*)

Active volcano:

- A volcano that is currently erupting, or has erupted during recorded history. (*Teacher's Packet*)
- A volcano that is erupting. Also, a volcano that is not presently erupting but that has erupted within historical time and is considered likely to do so in the future (there is no distinction between "active" and "dormant" in this sense). (*Foxworthy and Hill, 1982*)

Aerosol:

- Fine liquid or solid particles suspended in the atmosphere. Aerosols resulting from volcanic eruptions are tiny droplets of sulfuric acid -- sulfur dioxide that has picked up oxygen and water. (*Teacher's Packet*)

Airfall:

- Ash falling from an eruption column or ashcloud. (*Miller, 1989*)
- Volcanic ash that has fallen through the air from an eruption cloud. A deposit so formed is usually well sorted and layered. (*Foxworthy and Hill, 1982*)
- Also called: **ashfall**.

Andesite:

- A medium-colored dark gray volcanic rock containing 53-63 percent silica with a moderate viscosity when in a molten state. Intermediate in color, composition, and eruptive character between basalt and dacite.

Ash (volcanic):

- Fragments less than 2 millimeters (about 1/8 inch) in diameter of lava or rock blasted into the air by volcanic explosions. (*Teacher's Packet*)
- Fragments of lava or rock smaller than 2 millimeters in size that are blasted into the air by volcanic explosions. (*Miller, 1989*)
- Fine pyroclastic material in fragments less than 4.0 millimeters in diameter. "Ash" in this sense is quite distinct from the ash produced by common combustion because the rocks do not catch fire and burn during a volcanic event. (*Foxworthy and Hill, 1982*)