



Mount Kilimanjaro

Why in News

Recently, a fire that has broken out on the slopes of **Mount Kilimanjaro**, the **highest peak in Africa**.

- The cause of the fire is not clear but **strong winds and dry weather** have caused it to **spread fast**.

Key Points //

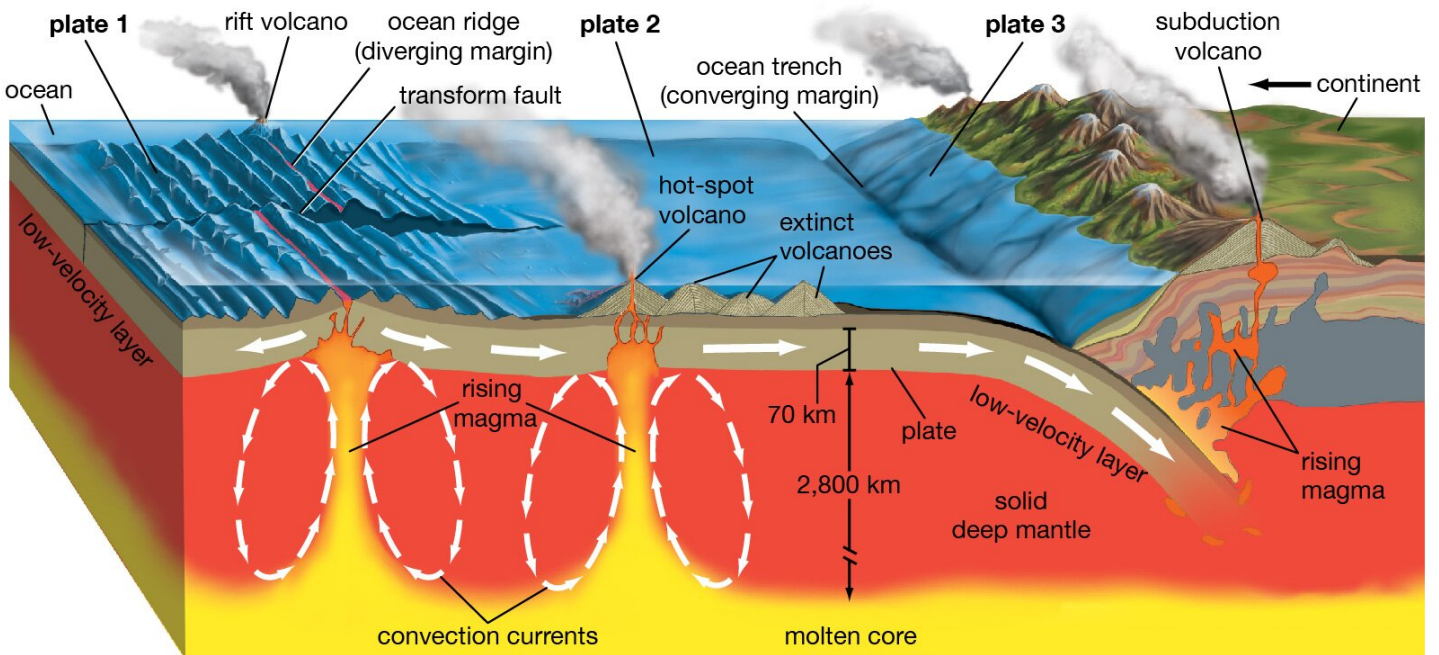


- Located in **Tanzania**, Mount Kilimanjaro is **Africa's tallest mountain at about 5,895 meters**.
- It is also the **largest free-standing mountain rise in the world**, meaning it is **not part of a mountain range**.
- Kilimanjaro is a **stratovolcano** or **composite volcano** (a term for a very large volcano made of **layers of ash, lava, and rock**) and is **made up of three cones**: Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.
 - **Kibo is the summit** of the mountain and the **tallest** of the three volcanic formations. While **Mawenzi and Shira are extinct, Kibo is dormant** and could possibly erupt again.
 - Scientists estimate that the **last time it erupted was 3,60,000 years ago**.
- The mountain is also **known for its snow-capped peak** which might disappear within the next 20 years or so as per the warnings by the scientists.
- In **1973**, the mountain and its six surrounding forest corridors were named **Kilimanjaro National Park** in order to protect its unique environment.
 - The park was named a [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\) World Heritage site in 1987](#).
- It is a **popular tourist destination** and tens of thousands of people climb it every year.

Volcano

- A volcano is an **opening on the surface of a planet which allows material warmer than its surroundings to escape from its interior**.

- When this material escapes, it causes an **eruption**. An eruption can be **explosive, sending material high** into the sky. Or it can be **calmer, with gentle flows** of material.
- On **Earth**, the erupted material can be **liquid rock ("lava"** when it's on the surface and **"magma"** when it's underground), **ash, cinders, and/or gas**.



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