**Volcano Worksheet**

*Read this passage based on the text and answer the questions that follow.*

**Composite and Shield Volcanoes**

Composite volcanoes have broad bases and steep sides. These volcanoes usually have a large crater at the top. The crater was created during the volcano's last eruption. Composite volcanoes are formed by alternating layers of magma and ash. The magma that creates composite volcanoes tends to be thick. Steep sides form because the lava cannot flow very far from the vent. The thick magma generally creates explosive eruptions. Ash and pyroclasts fly up into the air. Much of this material falls back down near the vent. This contributes to the steep sides of composite volcanoes. Composite volcanoes are common along convergent plate boundaries. When a tectonic plate subducts, it melts. This creates the thick magma needed to produce this type of volcano.

Shield volcanoes have a very wide base and a flatter top than composite volcanoes. The magma that creates shield volcanoes is relatively thin. Thin lava spreads out and builds up, layer by layer. Shield volcanoes tend to be very large. For example, the Mauna Loa shield volcano in Hawaii has a diameter of more than 112 kilometers (70 miles). Shield volcanoes often form along divergent plate boundaries. Because of their thin magma, shield volcano eruptions are non-explosive.

**Questions**

1. Contrast the shape and composition of composite and shield volcanoes.

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2. Describe where and how composite volcanoes form.

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3. Outline the formation of shield volcanoes.

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