

Volcanic activity occurs around the Pacific Ring of Fire because many destructive plate boundaries are located here. One example is the destructive boundary between the continental South American plate and the oceanic Pacific plate which has formed the Andes Mountains. The denser oceanic plate is subducted underneath the continental plate and melts as it falls into the hot mantle. Magma then rises up through the continental plate and is erupted through volcanoes at the surface. The destructive boundaries all around the Pacific Ring of Fire are the reason for high volcanic activity.