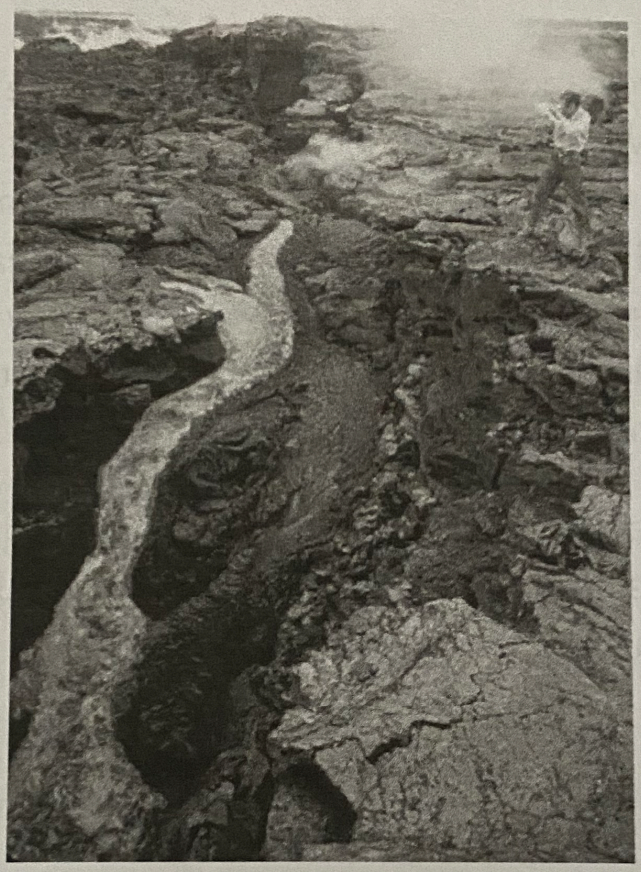
The Volcano That Keeps Erupting

by Susan LaBella



A volcano on the island of Hawaii has been erupting since 1983. The volcano's name is Kilauea (kee-lah-WAY-ah). It has released tons of hot, melted rock called lava.

Volcanoes are openings on the surface of our planet that can send lava, gas, and steam into the air. You may have seen volcanoes that look like mountains with openings at the top. Many volcanoes look like that. But others appear more flat. An example of a flatter volcano is the shield

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volcano.

Most of the world's volcanoes are found in an area that forms a shape like a horseshoe around the Pacific Ocean. Scientists call that area the "Ring of Fire."

Kilauea is a shield volcano. Lava from Kilauea has done a lot of damage. In 1990, lava flowed over a hundred homes, a church, and a store in the village of Kalapana. Those places were destroyed. From 1983 to 2011, lava destroyed almost all the houses in another community called Royal Gardens. There was one house that survived all those years. In 2012, another lava flow ruined the only home remaining in that community. Today, Royal Gardens is no longer home to anyone.

Scientists say Kilauea's lava threatens more homes and a forest preserve. The scientists are using computers to map the lava's path. They hope to predict what Kilauea will do in the future.

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