


Are you smarter than a volcano?

Myth vs. Reality about volcanoes in Hawai'i



1. Kīlauea is the only active volcano on the Island of Hawai'i

False!

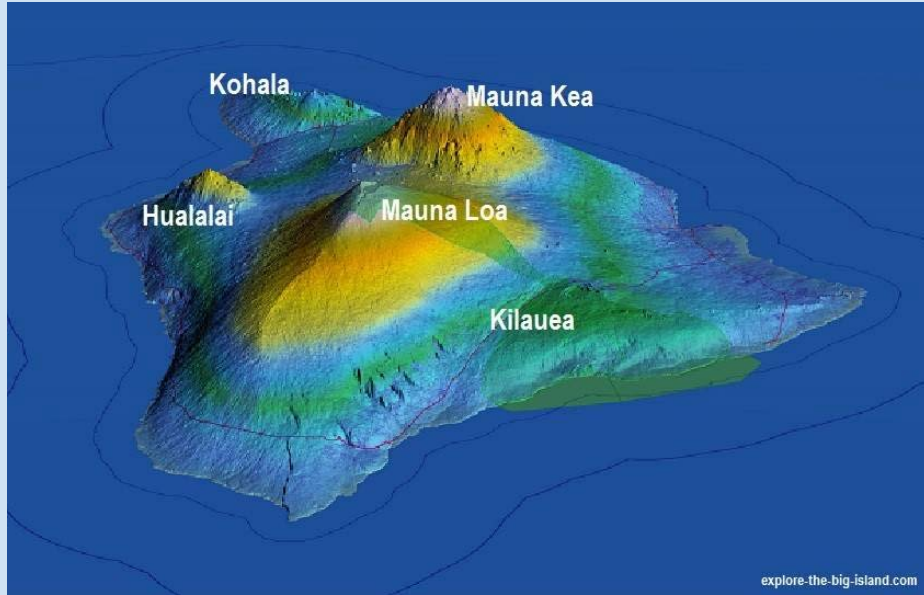


Photo by Explore The Big Island

There are five volcanoes on the Island of Hawai'i. Four of them are considered active: Kīlauea, Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, and Hualālai.



2. Kīlauea was an inactive volcano until the 2018 eruption

False!

Kīlauea has periodically erupted throughout history. It erupted nearly continuously between January 1983 and August 2018.

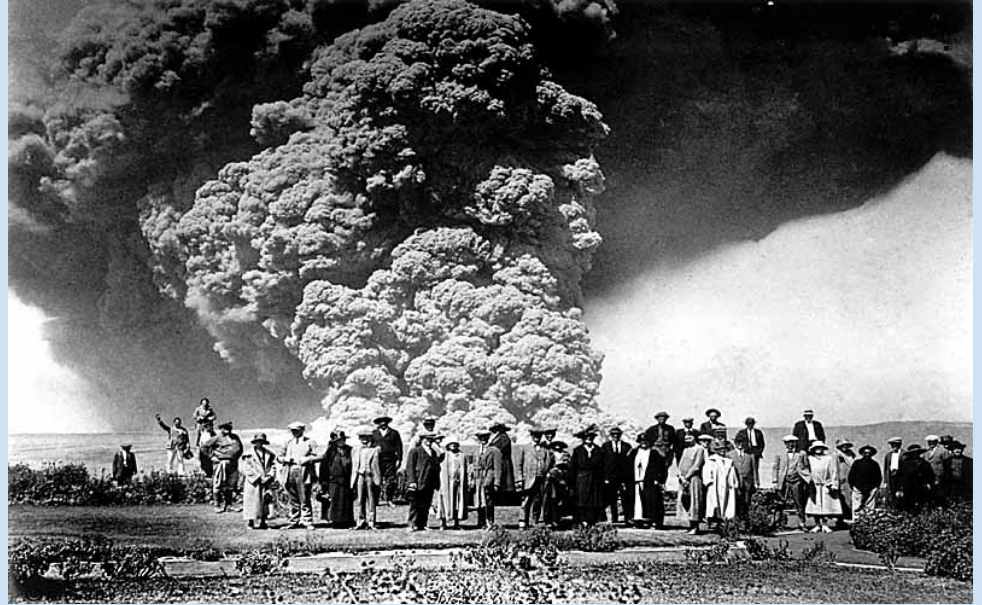
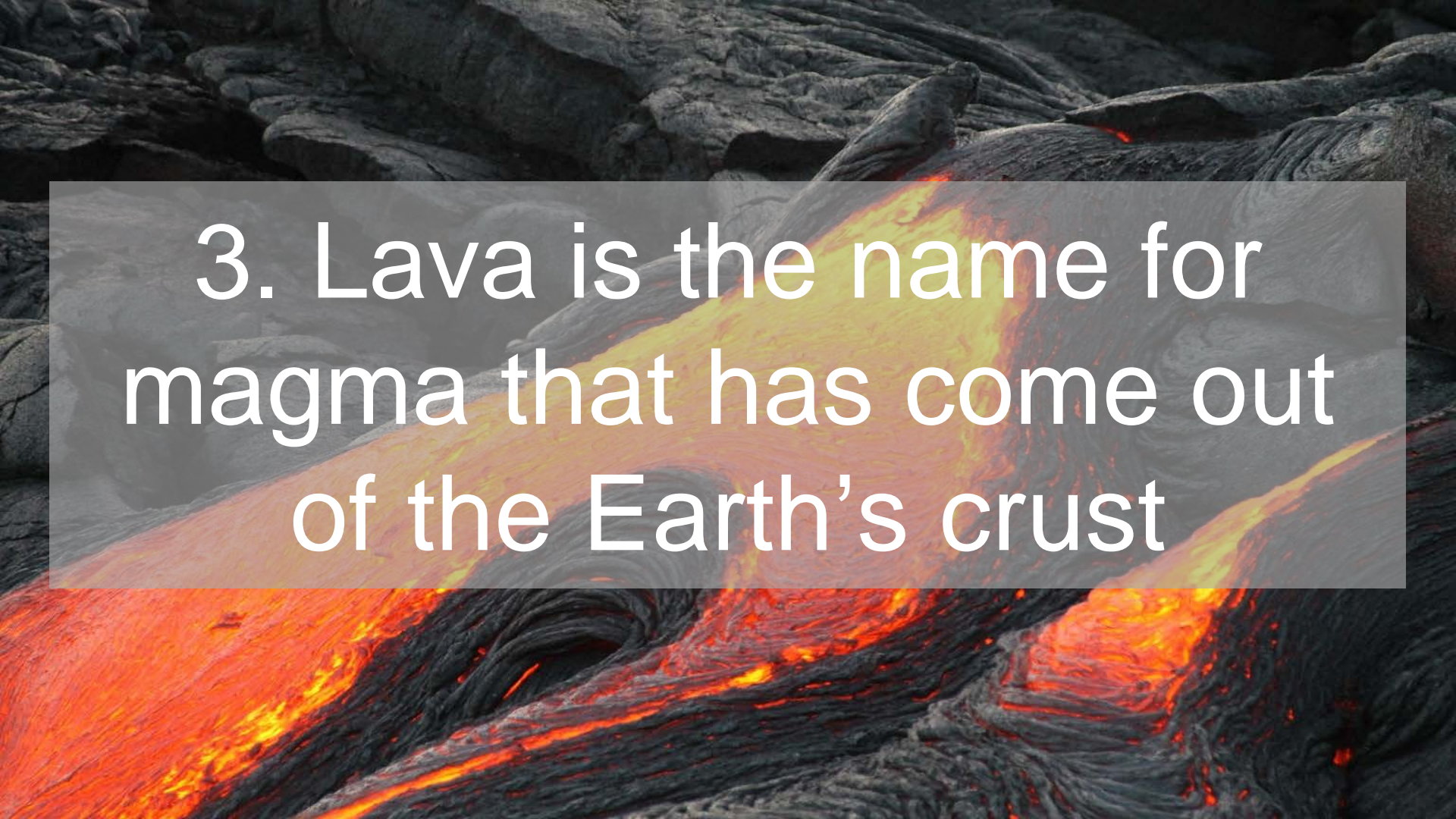


Photo by Geology in Motion



3. Lava is the name for magma that has come out of the Earth's crust

True!

Lava is what we call magma after it has come out of the Earth's crust.

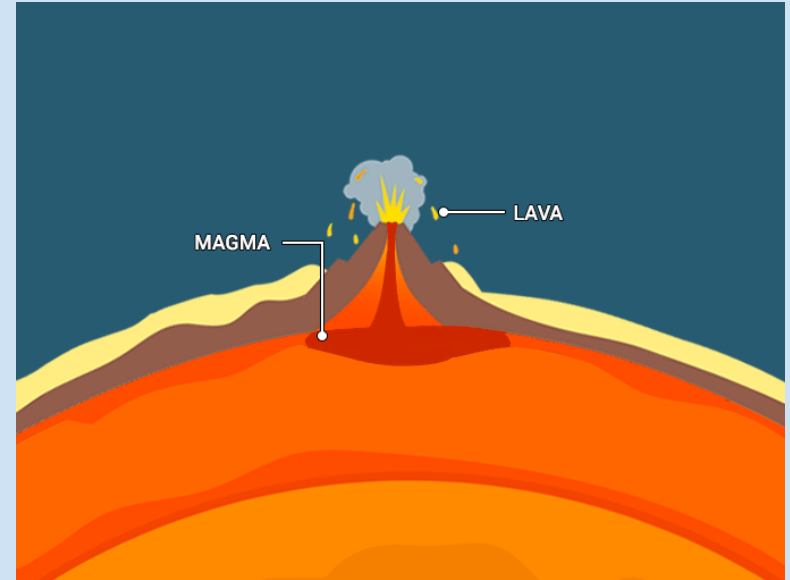





Photo by Earth How, 2017



4. All volcanoes are formed
in the same way

OCEANIC CRUST

		
0 - 20 Ma	20 - 65 Ma	> 65 Ma

GEOLOGIC PROVINCE

	Shield
	Platform
	Orogen
	Basin
	Large Igneous Province
	Extended Crust

False!

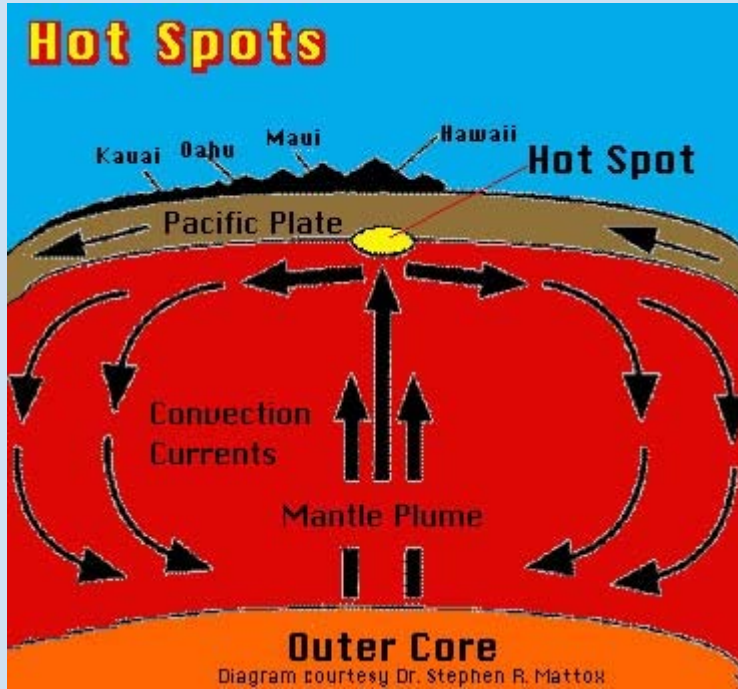


Photo by Stephen R. Mattox

Not all volcanoes form in the same way. Volcanoes in Hawai'i erupt from a hot spot in the Earth's mantle.



5. Hawai'i is located on the
Pacific Ring of Fire

False!

The Pacific Ring of Fire is a zone of many volcanoes that borders most of the Pacific Ocean, but does not include Hawai'i. Hawai'i is on a hot spot.

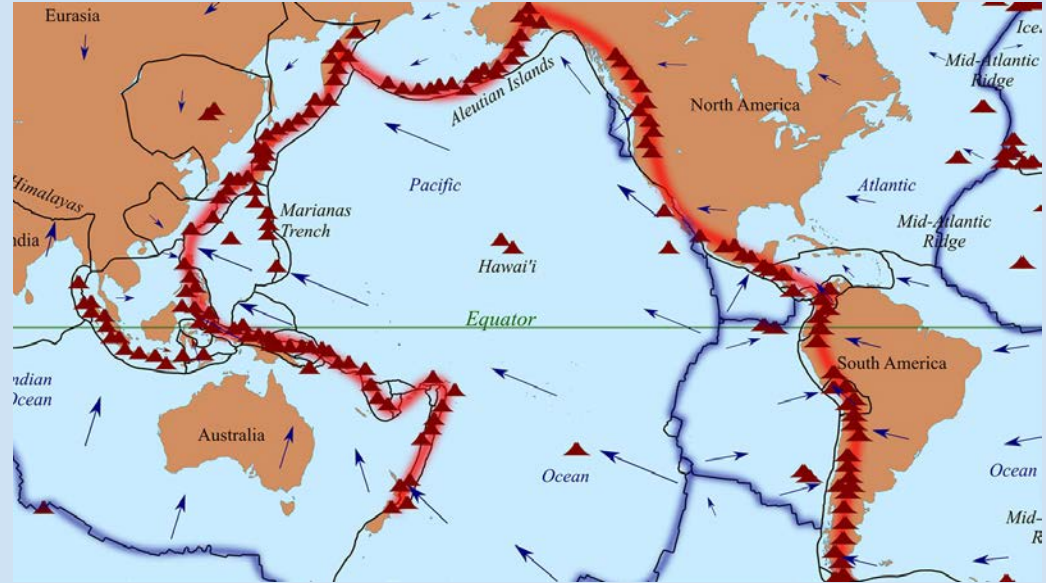


Photo by Global Geopolitics, 2018, Astroskiandhike via Creative Commons 4.0

A large volcano erupting with a massive plume of ash and lava flows on its slopes.

6. The world's largest volcano is on the Island of Hawai'i

True!

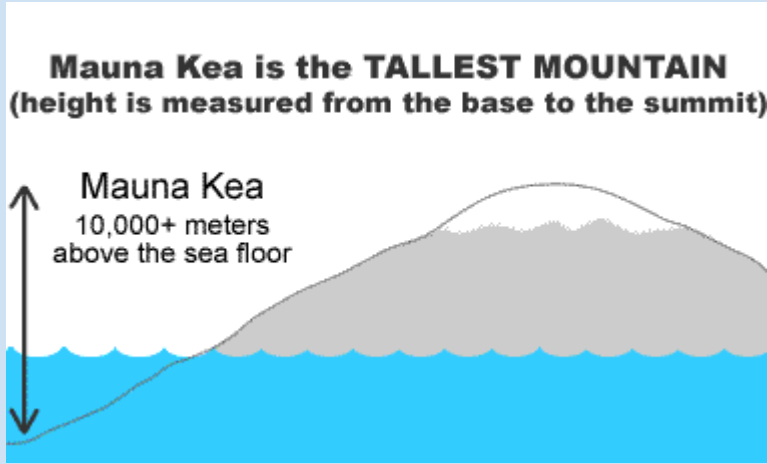


Photo by Geology.com

In fact, two of the world's largest volcanoes are located on the Island of Hawai'i. Mauna Loa is the most massive in volume. Mauna Kea is the world's tallest from ocean floor to its highest elevation.

7. It is currently very dangerous to visit Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park because of the 2018 eruption



False!

While the 2018 eruption events affected many sites on the Island of Hawai'i, it is safe to visit Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/hawaiiivolcanoes for the most up-to-date safety precautions.



Photo by NPS, Jessica Ferracane

8. Hawai'i Volcanoes became a national park in the last 50 years



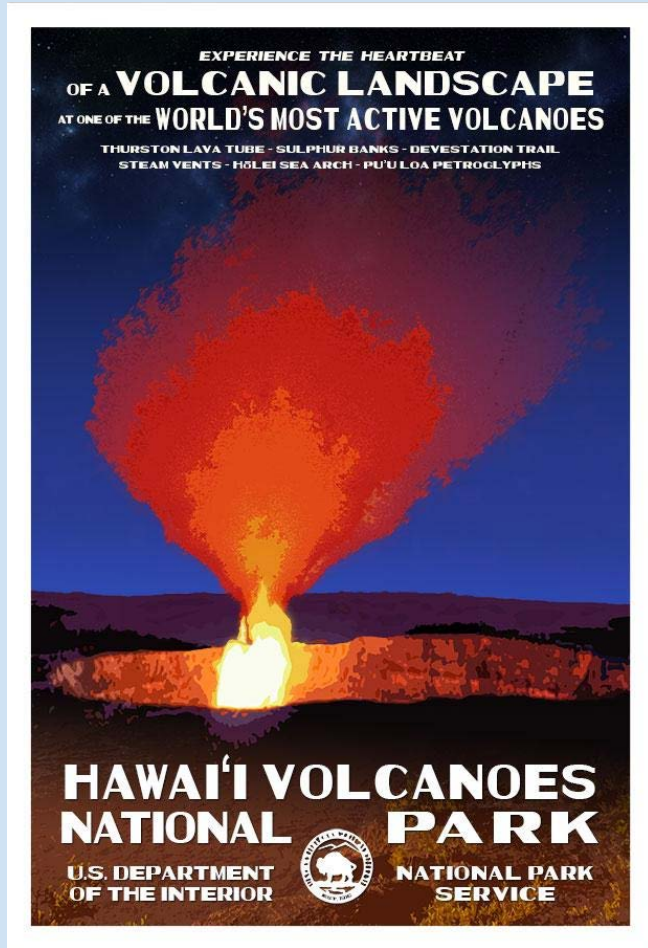
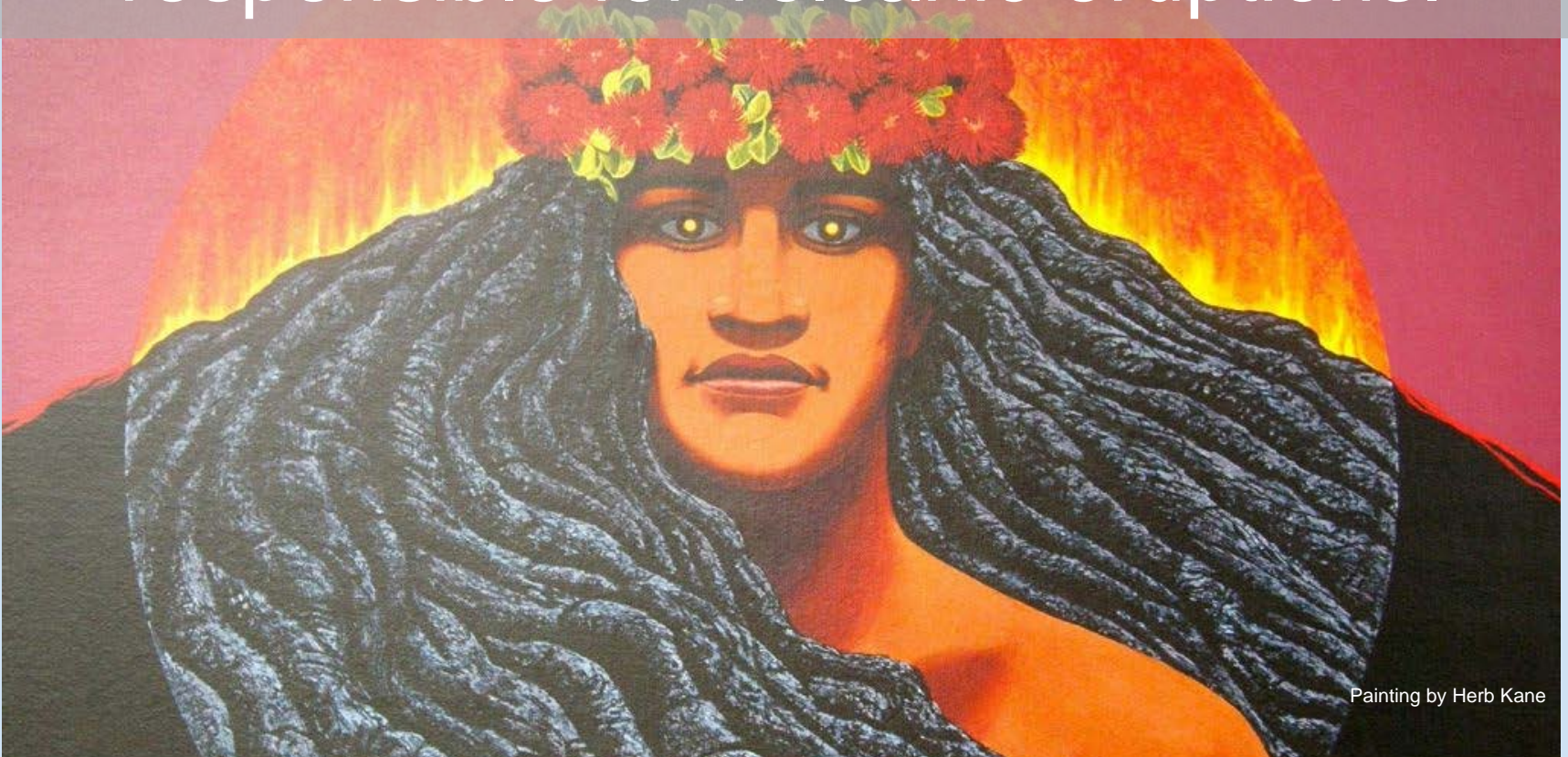


Photo by Wild Post Cards

False!

Hawai'i Volcanoes became a national park on August 1, 1916. That makes it over 100 years old!

9. In Hawaiian culture, Pele is the goddess responsible for volcanic eruptions.



Painting by Herb Kane

True!

In traditional Hawaiian culture, Pele is the goddess of volcanoes. She makes her home in Halema'uma'u crater at the summit of Kīlauea volcano.



10. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is famous for its natural and cultural resources

True!

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park was selected as a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site in 1987.



Photo by UNESCO

Citations

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