

The Underground Ember That Stamps Out a Line of Islands: The Hotspot

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If you look at the Hawaiian Islands on a map, you will see them lined up diagonally from southeast to northwest. Even more curious is that lava still flows on the Island of Hawai'i at the southeastern end, while the islands grow older and more worn down the farther northwest you go, until they finally sink into undersea mountains. There is a hot spot deep in the Earth that stamps out islands one after another like this. It is called a 'hotspot.' Put simply, a hotspot is a place where unusually hot mantle deep in the Earth supplies magma and drives volcanic activity, regardless of where the pla