Virtual Volcano is an online tutorial on the relationships between magma viscosity, magma gas content, volcano type, eruption type, and eruptive products/processes. The exercise is simple, but you will need updated Adobe Flash Player software installed on your computer in order to run the animations.

To install the latest version of Adobe Flash Player on your computer, go to:

http://www.adobe.com/products/flash/about/

To access the Virtual Volcano website, go to:


In order to receive full credit, correctly answer each of the following questions.

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1. Enter the website

2. Under ‘Menu’, click ‘build your own volcano and watch it erupt’.

3. Run the Virtual Volcano model for each of the following viscosity-gas conditions. You must set the viscosity-gas conditions for each eruption, then start the eruption. For each eruption viscosity-gas condition, list the type of volcano which forms, eruption type, and each type of eruptive product/process. Note that there are four viscosity settings: ‘high’, ‘relatively high’, ‘relatively low’, and ‘low’. There are two gas settings: ‘high’ and ‘low’.

A) high viscosity, high gas content:

volcano type: ________________________________

eruption type: ________________________________

eruptive products/processes: ________________________________

B) high viscosity, low gas content:

volcano type: ________________________________

eruption type: ________________________________

eruptive products/processes: ________________________________
C) relatively high viscosity, high gas content:

volcano type:

eruption type:

eruptive products/processes:

D) relatively high viscosity, low gas content:

volcano type:

eruption type:

eruptive products/processes:

E) relatively low viscosity, high gas content:

volcano type:

eruption type:

eruptive products/processes:

F) relatively low viscosity, low gas content:

volcano type:

eruption type:

eruptive products/processes:
G) low viscosity, high gas content:

volcano type: 

eruption type: 

eruptive products/processes: 

H) low viscosity, low gas content:

volcano type: 

eruption type: 

eruptive products/processes: 