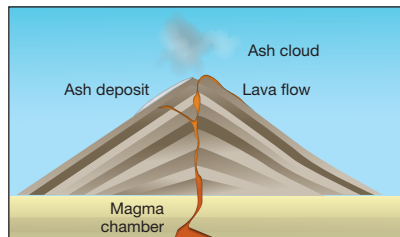


Mount Taranaki / Egmont Volcano



Description

- This volcano has two official names Mount Egmont or Mount Taranaki.
- It is located in Egmont National Park.
- It is one of the most symmetrical volcanic cones in the world.
- There is a circular ring plain of volcanic material formed from lahars and landslides.
- At 2,518m high, it is the second highest peak in the North Island.
- It is NZ's largest mainland volcanic cone by volume.
- The summit crater is filled with ice and snow and has a lava dome in the centre.
- It is the youngest, largest and only active volcano in a chain that includes the Kaitake and Pouakai Ranges, Paritutu and the Sugar Loaves, all of which are eroded remains of what were once large volcanoes.



- ▲ Mt Taranaki is one of the most symmetrical volcanic cones in the world.
- ◀ It is a **stratovolcano (also called a composite cone)** - and is made up of alternating layers of ash and lava flow.

Maori Name

- Taranaki (tara means mountain peak and naki is thought to come from ngaki meaning shining and referring to the mountain's winter snow cover).

Features

- Volcanic ash has been weathered and mixed with the soil to produce rich, fertile farmland.
- There is a secondary cone called Fanthams Peak on the south side.
- It has a small ski field.

Type

- Taranaki is a stratovolcano (also called composite cone volcano).
- It is made of layers of mostly andesite lava flows and pyroclastic deposits (tephra).

Cause

- It was created by subduction of the Pacific Plate below the Australian Plate. The magma is probably coming from deeper than the Taupo Volcanic Zone

volcanoes as the subducting slab is deeper.

Eruptive history

- Eruptions began about 130,000 years ago.
- Large eruptions occur on average every 500 years with smaller eruptions about 90 years apart.
- At least 5 eruptions have involved cone collapse. This has created the extensive ring plain, and huge landslides have reached as far as 40km from the cone.

Eruptive material

- Lava flows have reached up to 7km from the cone.
- Pyroclastic flows have travelled up to 15km.
- Tephra ranges in size from dust (ashfall) to bombs and blocks.

Last eruptive activity

- An explosive medium sized ash eruption occurred around 1755 and minor volcanic events (creation of a lava dome in the

crater and its collapse) occurred in the 1800's.

- The last major eruption was around 1655.
- It is considered to be a "sleeping" active volcano that is likely to erupt again.

Other Volcanic Hazards

- These include lahars, debris avalanches and floods.

Monitoring

- A web camera and 9 seismographs are used.

