



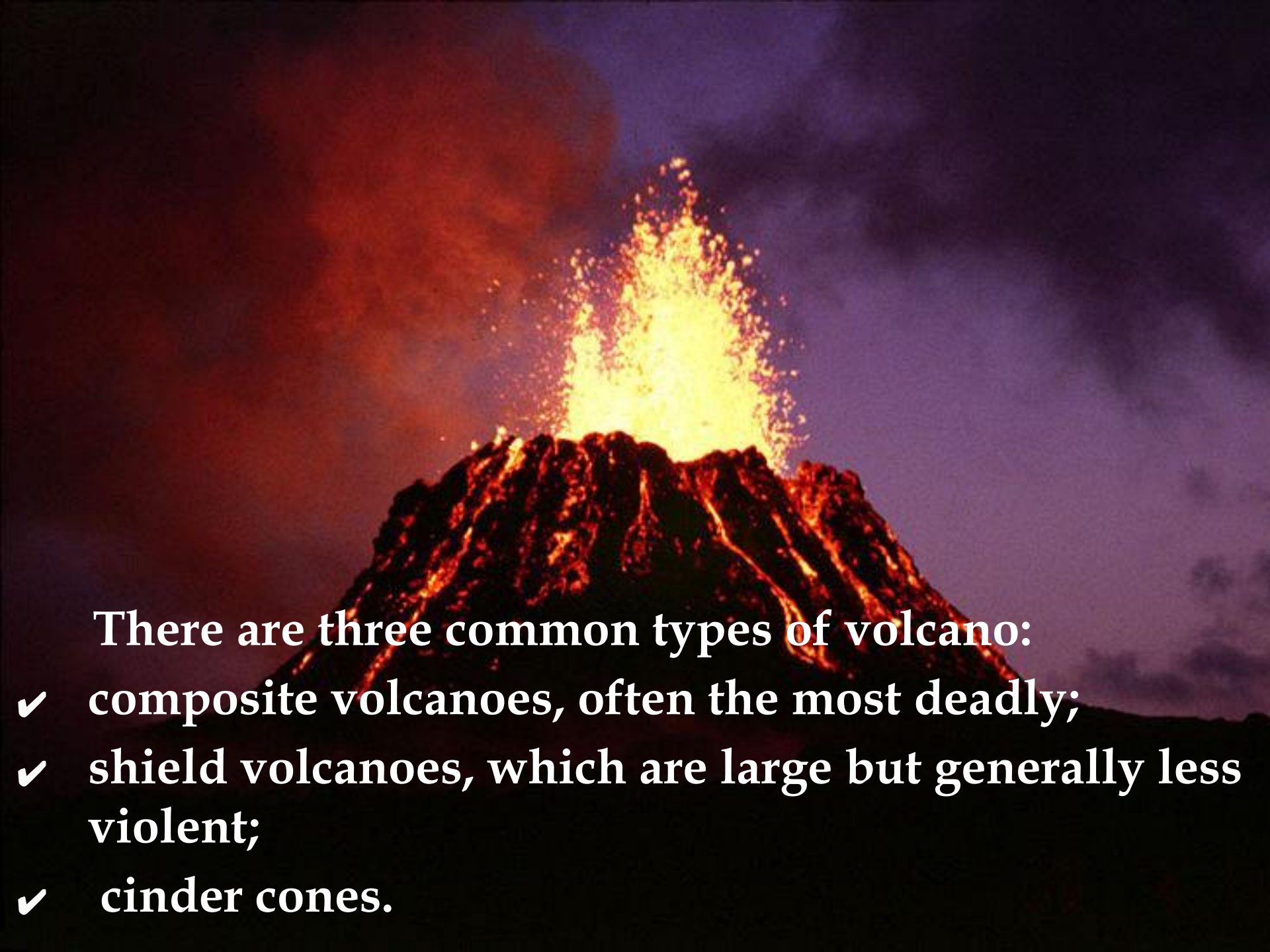
VOLCANOES

A volcano is an opening, or rupture, in the surface or crust of the Earth or a planetary mass object, which allows hot lava, volcanic ash and gases to escape from the magma chamber below the surface.



On Earth, volcanoes are generally found where tectonic plates are diverging or converging.





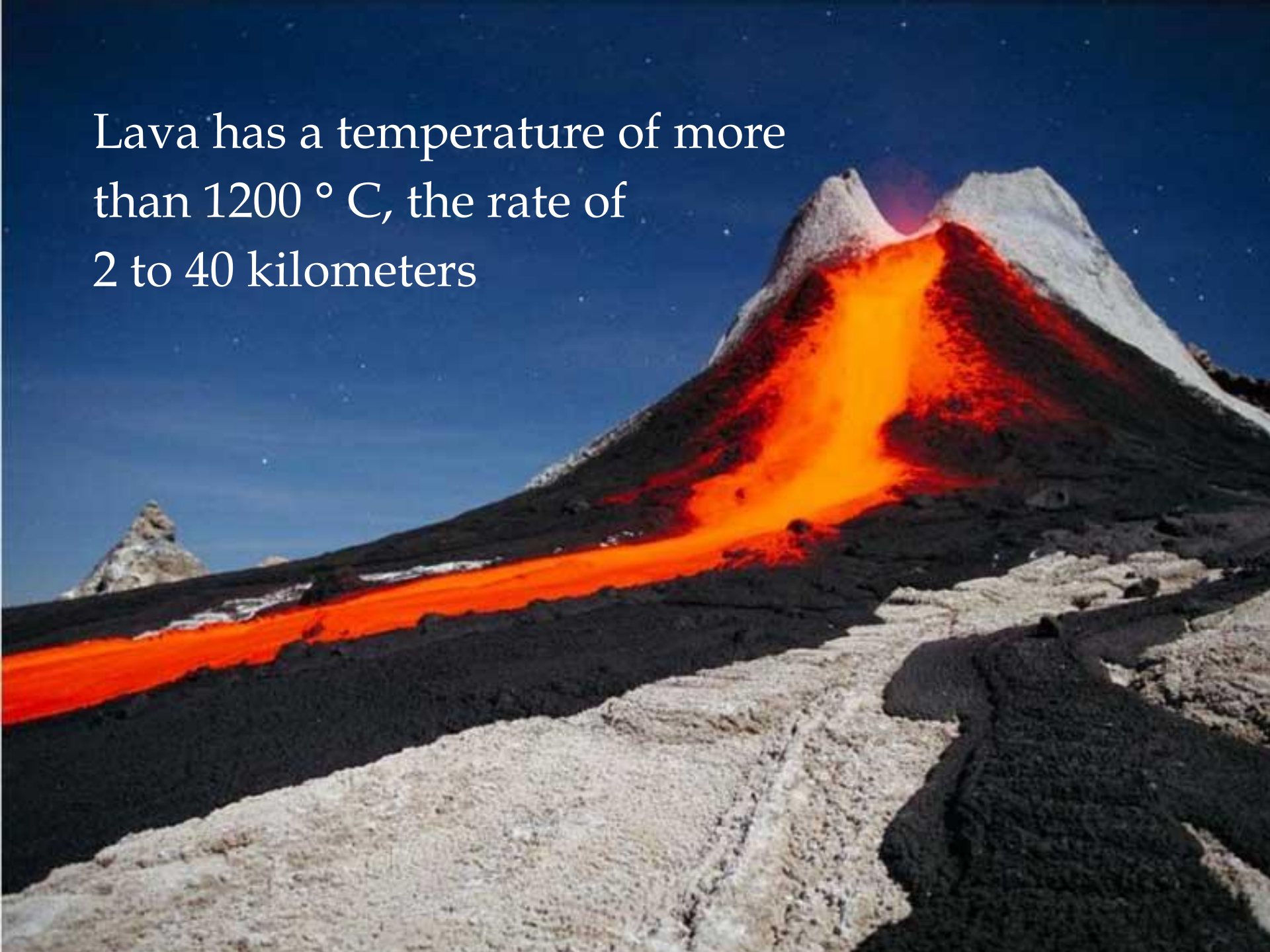
There are three common types of volcano:

- ✓ **composite volcanoes, often the most deadly;**
- ✓ **shield volcanoes, which are large but generally less violent;**
- ✓ **cinder cones.**



Erupting volcanoes can pose many hazards, not only in the immediate vicinity of the eruption.

Lava has a temperature of more than 1200°C , the rate of 2 to 40 kilometers





The largest volcano on Earth is Hawaii's Mauna Loa. It is about 10 km tall from the sea floor to its summit (it rises about 4 km above sea level).

The most active volcano in the continental USA is Mt. St. Helens (located in western Washington state).

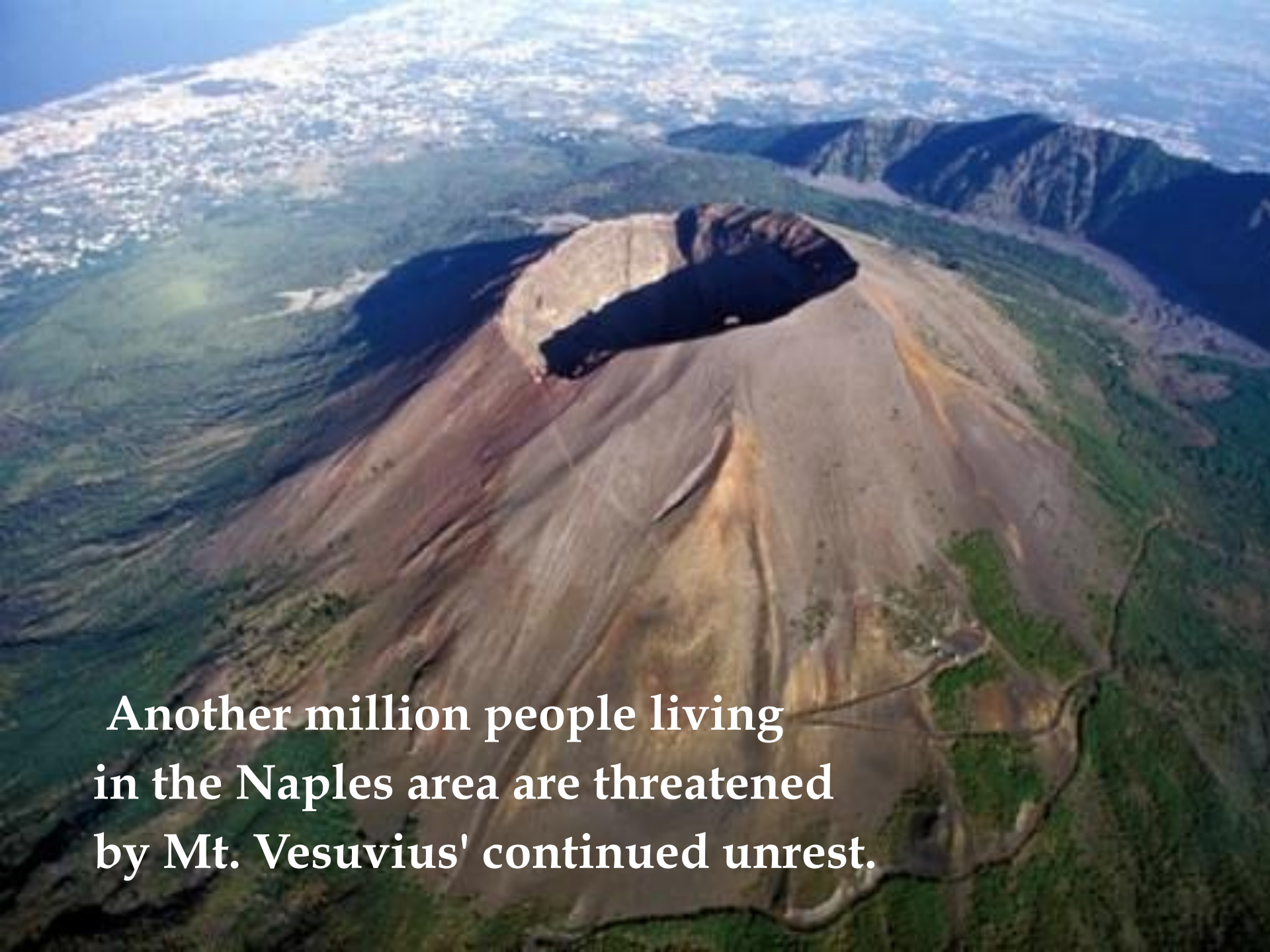




Volcanic eruptions continue posing ever-greater threats to life and property.



South of Mexico City,
Popocatepetl has begun to
come to life again.

An aerial photograph of Mount Vesuvius, showing its conical shape and the dark crater at the top. The slopes are covered in a mix of green vegetation and brownish-grey ash or sand. In the background, a large city, likely Naples, is visible, spread across a valley and up the sides of surrounding hills. The sky is clear and blue.

Another million people living
in the Naples area are threatened
by Mt. Vesuvius' continued unrest.

THE END

