



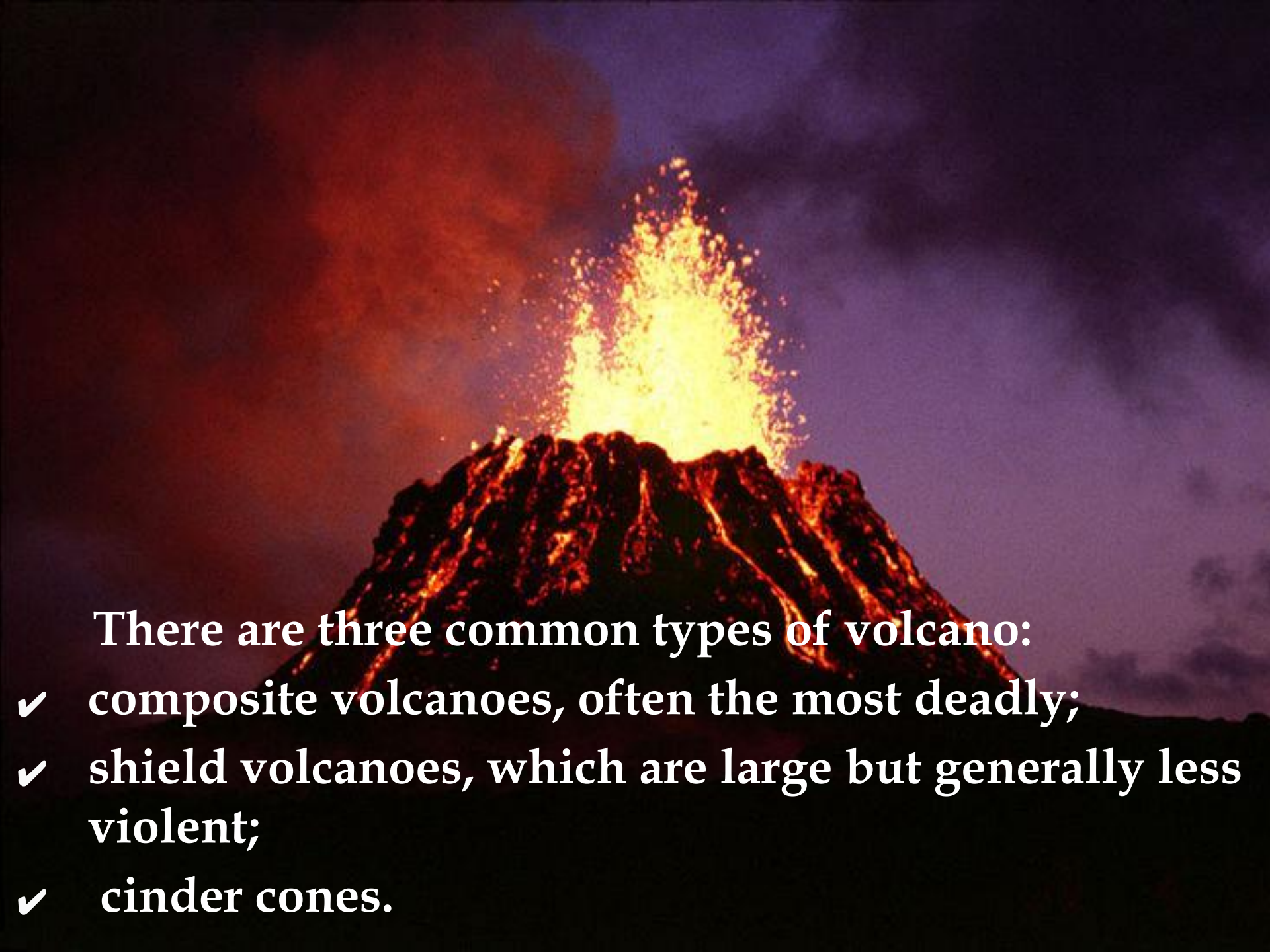
# VOLCANOES

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.





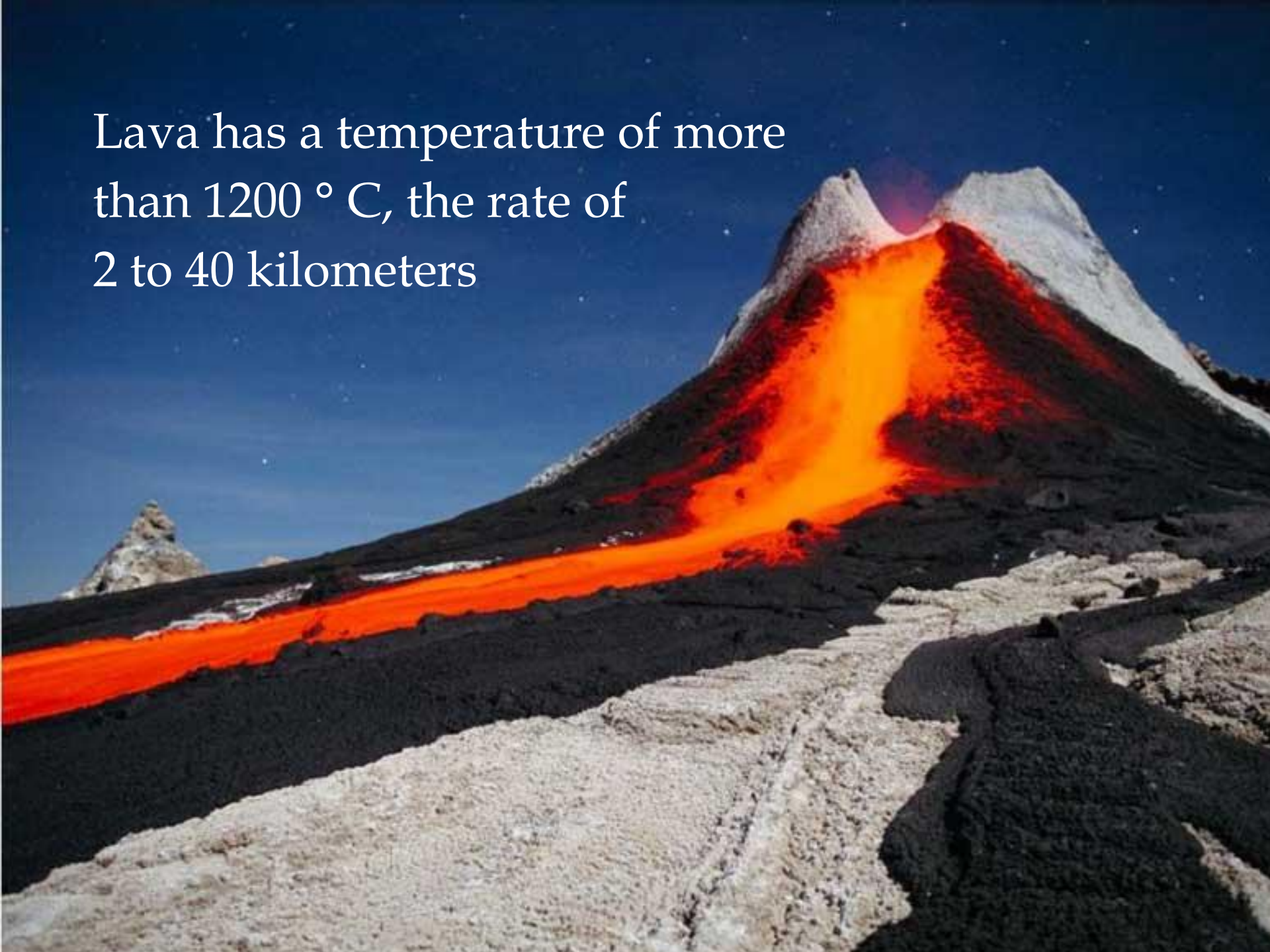
There are three common types of volcano:

- ✓ 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  $1200^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 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).**



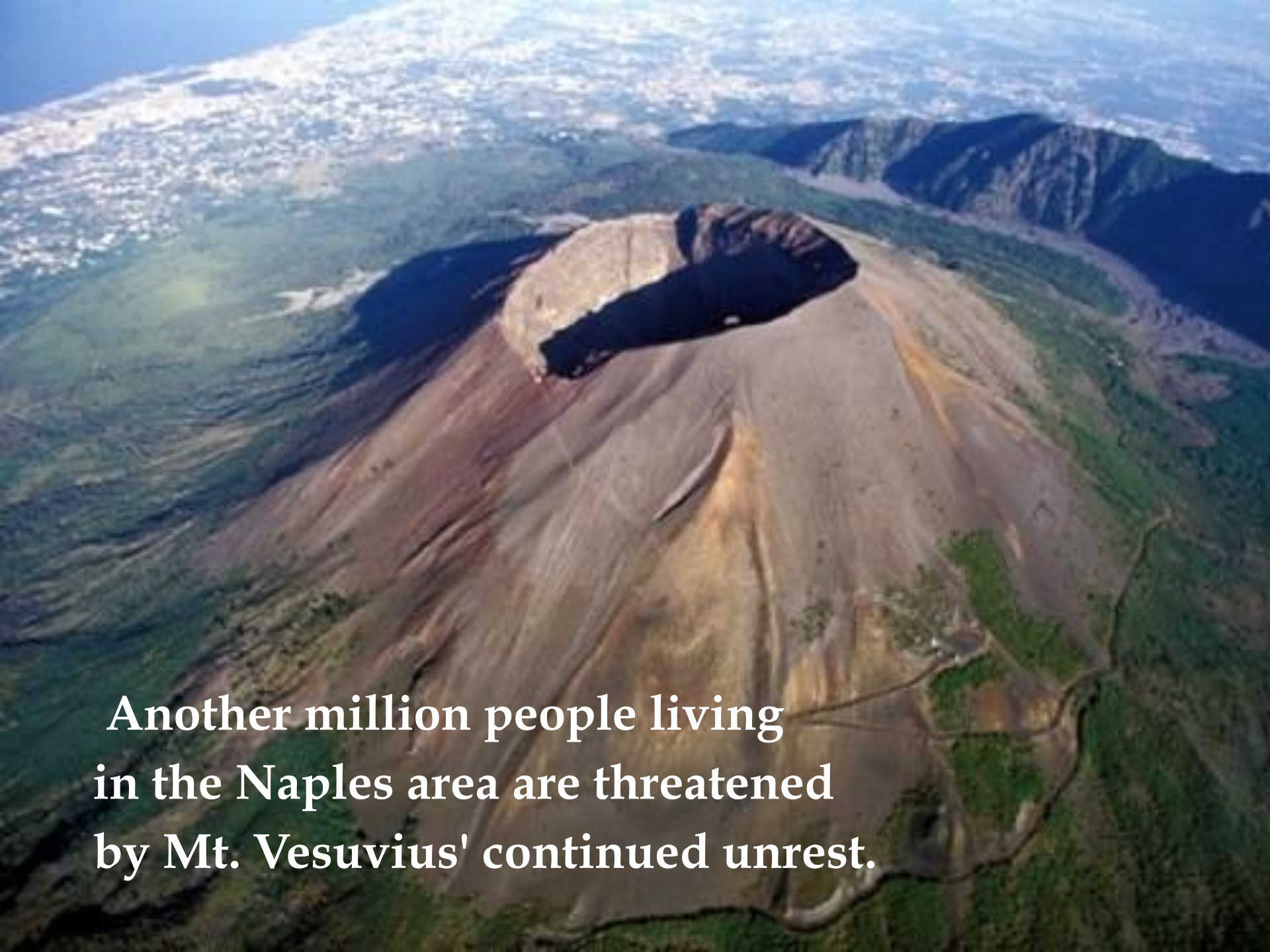




**Volcanic eruptions continue posing ever-greater threats to life and property.**



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

An aerial photograph of Mount Vesuvius, a large volcano with a prominent crater. The mountain's slopes are covered in ash and some sparse vegetation. In the background, a dense urban area, likely Naples, is visible under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image.

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

**THE END**

