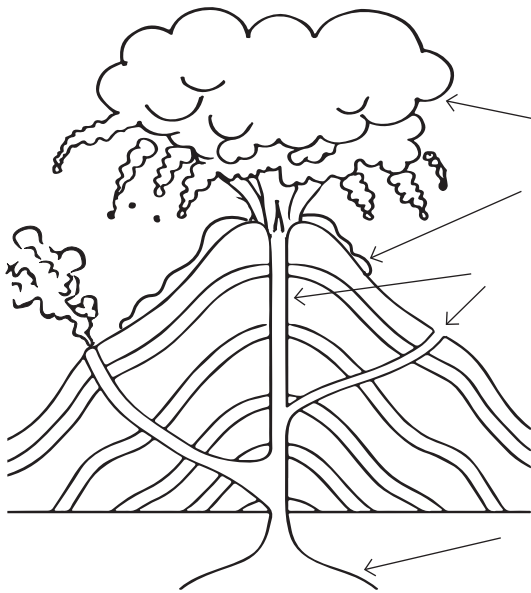


THE GEOLOGICAL STORY OF OAMARU



Oamaru Volcano

Around 40 million years ago, much of New Zealand was under the sea.

Near Oamaru, an underwater volcano started to erupt into the seafloor sediments. With each eruption the volcano grew bigger and bigger. Today we see the remains of this volcano – it is called Cape Wanbrow.

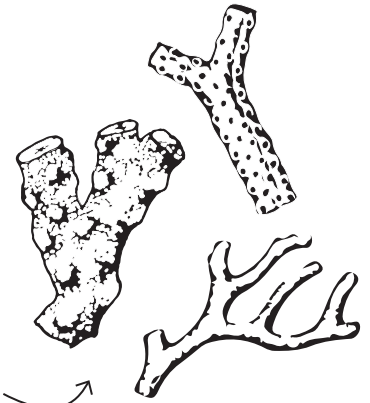
labels:
 ash
 vent
 lava
 magma

Colour and label the different parts of the volcano

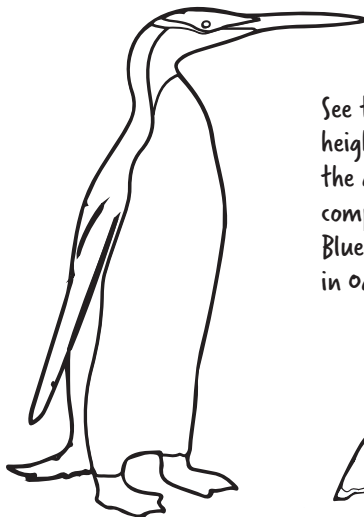
Limestone

Around the same time, limestone was forming in the sea. This limestone (Oamaru stone) was formed when sea life died and fell to the bottom of the sea floor. The remains were compacted (squished) and became harder.

Marine (sea) fossils have been preserved within the limestone. Fossils are the bones and shells of creatures that lived and died at the time the limestone was forming.



Oamaru Limestone is mostly made of tiny creatures called Bryozoa



GIANT PENGUIN

See the difference in height and size of the ancient penguin compared to the Little Blue Penguin that lives in Oamaru today!



LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN

Penguin Bones

The bones of a giant penguin have been found in the limestone (you can see these at Vanished World in Duntroon). This penguin is thought to be around 34 million years old, a bit shorter than an adult (but maybe as tall as you!) and weighing 60kg – that's the weight of two dalmatian dogs!

Design and draw your own Victorian limestone building here

Limestone buildings

Parkside Quarry in Weston is a working quarry where Oamaru Stone is removed and sold. Limestone has many uses - including for building. Oamaru is famous for its limestone buildings – built during the Victorian Era (1800's). Because the limestone is soft it can be carved into amazing decorative features!

