

The Open University

Island Arc Magmatism: Santorini

Today tourists flock to the spectacular Greek island of Santorini. But how many realise that its stunning scenery was birthed by one of the largest and most destructive volcanic eruptions in history? This eruption left a geological caldera surrounded by huge amounts of volcanic ash. In this album, Open University geologists Richard Thorpe and Steve Blake take us on a geological tour of the island. They piece together the likely sequence of events of the eruption which destroyed an ancient civilisation. This material forms part of the course: S339 Understanding the continents.