volcanic rock

**volcanic rock**. (a) A generally finely crystalline or glassy igneous rock resulting from volcanic action at or near the Earth's surface, either ejected explosively or extruded as lava; e.g. basalt. The term includes near-surface intrusions that form a part of the volcanic structure. See also: volcanics. Cf: plutonic rock. (b) A general term proposed by Read (1944) to include the effusive rocks and associated high-level intrusive rocks; they are dominantly basic. Cf: neptunic rock; plutonic rock.

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