

Hydrothermal Vents

Hydrothermal vents are a bit like underwater hot springs. Ask a staff member to show you how to activate your own Hydrothermal Vent!



Hydrothermal vent in the Azores, BlueAzoresExpedition (Telmo Morato),
June 2018







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Hydrothermal vents often form at areas where tectonic plates meet. Seawater moves down through deep cracks in the seafloor and is heated by molten rock. When it comes back up, the hot water will have lots of interesting minerals picked up from the rocks. These can form tall chimneys that are several metres high. Many interesting creatures are adapted to live in these extreme environments!

In June 2018 scientists from the ATLAS project discovered new Hydrothermal Vents in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, near the Azores. How many can you spot in this picture?!



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