

CAL ZONE OBSERVATOR ES
U.S. NSF NATIONAL PROGRAM

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1

Objective

Materials

REYNOLDS

BOULDER

SOUTHERN

CATALINA /
JEMEZ

AT HOUN

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Classroom Activity: The Past, Present & Future of the Valles Caldera

1. Open Google Maps, enter Earth view, and visit the following coordinates: 35.901°, -106.549°. Zoom out so that the scale bar is 5 miles and describe this landscape.

2. Now do the same at Mauna Loa on Hawaii (19.471°, -155.592°),

volcano of your choice (ex. Mt. St. Helens, Vesuvius, Yellowstone Caldera). Don't forget to use the Street View icon (yellow person) to get an up-close view of these areas. How do they compare in size, shape and volcanic features to the Valles Caldera?

3. The supervolcano eruption that formed the Valles Caldera should have left a large footprint of ash and other debris. Visit 35.8729, -106.2332 and drag the Street View icon here to see an example of the famous Bandelier Tuff formation. These layers represent pyroclastic flow material ejected into the air and across the landscape. The extent of the 75 cubic miles of the formation can be seen in red to the right. How do you think these