
Aleutian Range
Appalachians
Rocky Mountains
Mid-Atlantic Ridge
Andes


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What are mountains?

Mountains are huge rocky features of the earth's landscape. They are formed by tectonic plates moving together and pushing up until tall structures are formed.

The world's mountains ranges are created by the same forces that trigger earthquakes and volcanoes.

Rocks that formed on sea floors are packed together and thrust high into the sky. But even as they are being raised, mountains are ground down again by erosion.

Mountains are forever changing as volcanic eruptions, erosion, landslides, avalanches and climate change all affect formation over time.

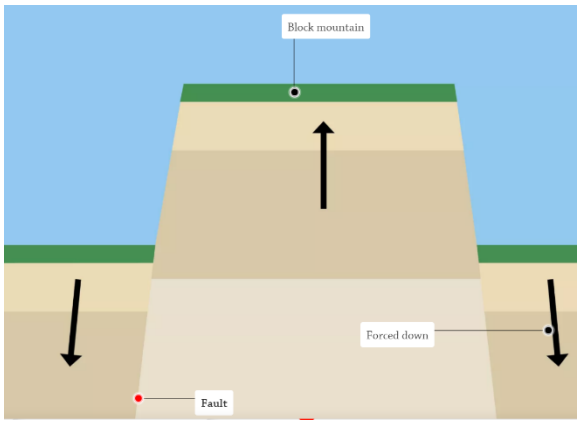
Why are mountains important?

Mountains are home to varieties of flora and fauna, and they are recognized as biological hotspots especially in areas where they remain undisturbed. In different regions of the world, mountains are protected in reserves and parks to protect their biological and ecological diversity.

Other mountains are recognized for their role in history and have been integral to the culture of the inhabiting communities. Mountains also promote favourite recreational activities including rock-climbing, hiking, sight-seeing, photography, ice climbing, snowboarding, and mountaineering, bringing tourism to the area. Mining, grazing, and logging are some of the economic activities supported by mountains.

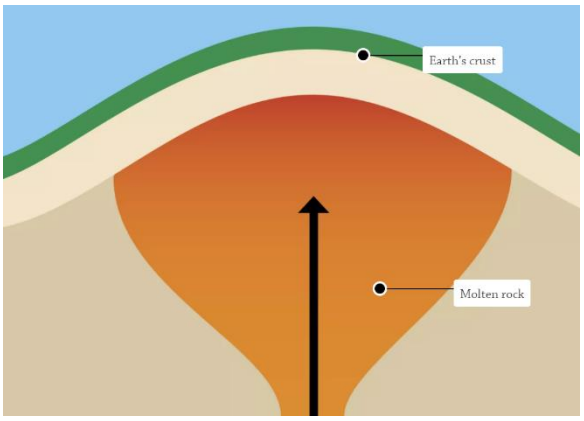
Mountains also affect the climate and weather patterns in different part of the world. The block wind and receive more rainfall compared to other low laying surrounding areas. When air move over the mountain it is forced up the mountain therefore cooling and condenses and fall as rain. The higher the mountain is above the sea level the cooler it becomes at the top.

Match the correct name and description to the correct diagram.



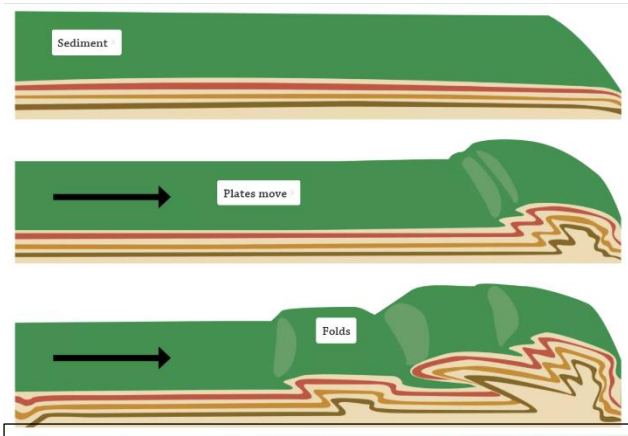
Dome mountains

Dome mountains occur when liquid rock inside the Earth forces the ground above it upward. This swelling doesn't break through the surface. The force, or pressure, produces a domelike shape.

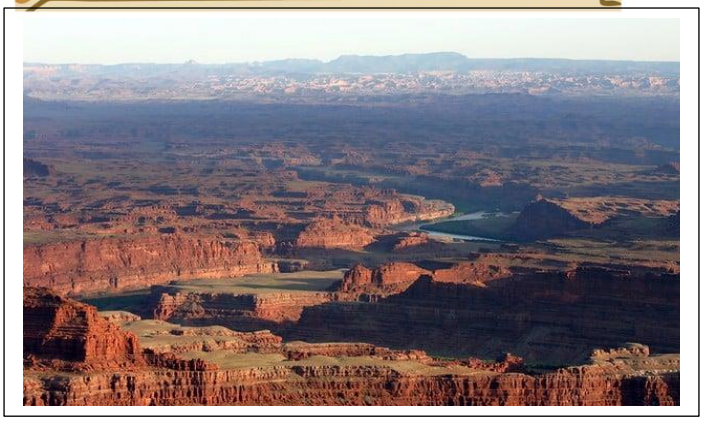


Fold mountains

Fold mountains are the most common type of mountain. The tectonic plates push forwards slowly over the years, making more and more folds. The Himalayas in Asia are good examples of fold mountains. They are 50 million years old, which is actually quite new! Many mountain ranges are much older. The Himalayas began to form when the Indian plate collided with the Asian plate. Mount Everest in the Himalayas is the highest point on Earth.



Plateaus are also called high plains or tablelands as they have a large area on top and a steep slope on the sides. A plateau has a steep slope or vertical cliffs on at least one of the sides rising sharply above the surrounded area.



Block mountains

Block mountains begin to form when a slab of land breaks off and is forced up as two of Earth's tectonic plates pull apart or push together.