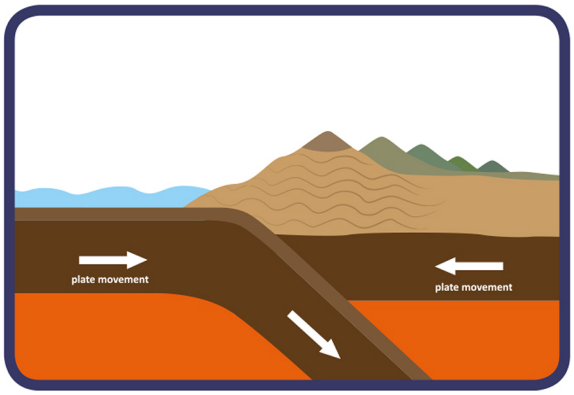
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Types of mountains

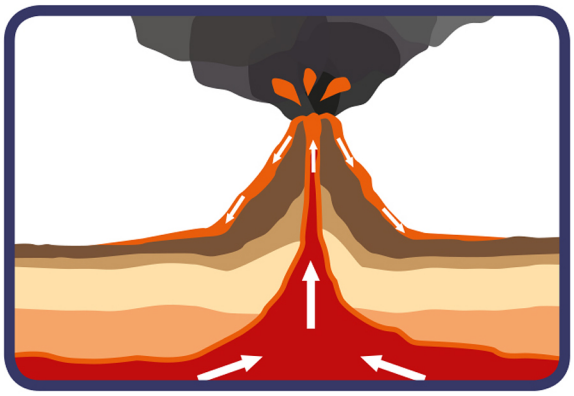
Fold mountains

Fold mountains are formed when tectonic plates move and collide with each other. As two plates collide, the edges crumple and one plate is forced under the other in a process called subduction. While one plate is forced down into the mantle, the crust from the other plate is compressed and forced up to form fold mountains.



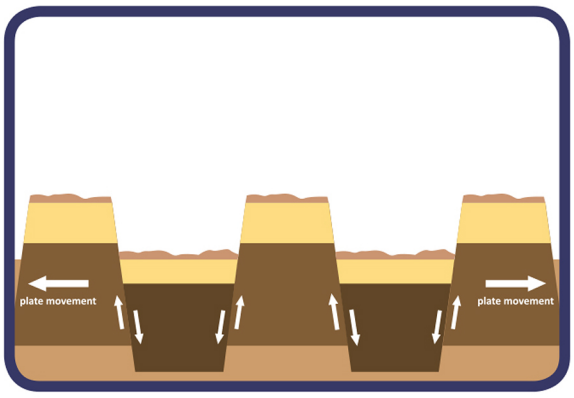
Volcanic mountains

Volcanic mountains are formed when lava (molten rock), ash and gases erupt through the Earth's crust. The materials deposited by the eruption cool and form a mountain. As the volcano continues to erupt, more materials are deposited and the mountain grows in size.



Fault-block mountains

Fault-block mountains are formed when the surface of the Earth moves apart along fault lines, which are cracks in the Earth's crust. On one side of the fault line, land is forced up, creating the mountain. On the other side of the fault line, the land collapses and moves downwards, creating a valley.

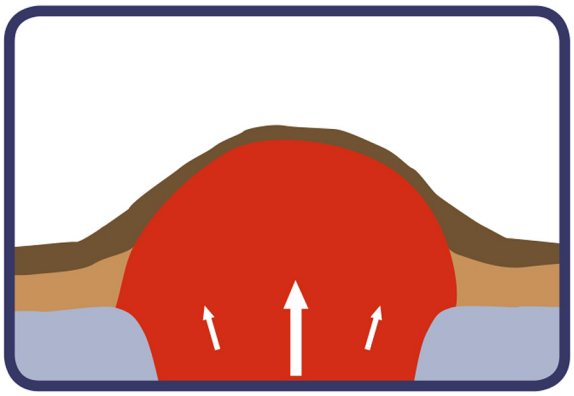


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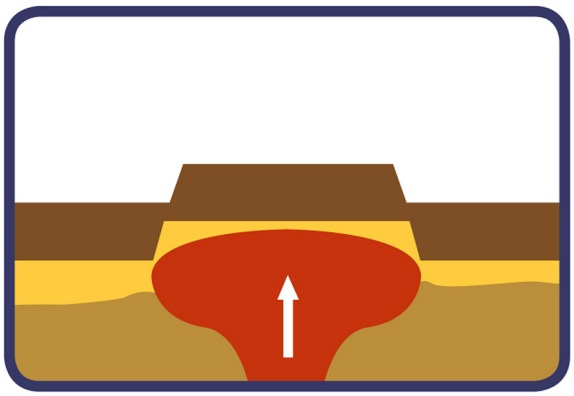
Dome mountains

Dome mountains are formed when magma pushes upwards against the Earth's crust. Instead of erupting through the crust, the magma cools and hardens. The overlying layer of rock erodes away, leaving a dome-shaped mountain.



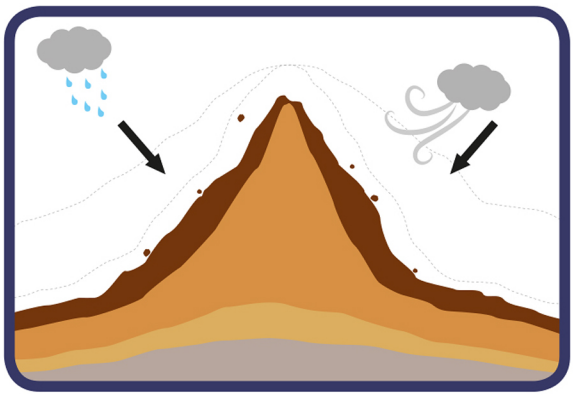
Plateau mountains

Plateau mountains can be formed in different ways. The simplest way for a plateau to form is by land being lifted up by magma below the Earth's crust. This causes large, flat areas of land to be forced upwards, creating a flat-topped plateau. These mountains are unusual, as they are very flat on top. Over millions of years, the flow of streams and rivers cuts deep, steep-sided canyons through some plateaus.



Erosional mountains

Erosional mountains are formed when softer land surrounding the Earth's raised, hard crust is worn away. Natural elements including wind, ice and water cause erosion, which results in an erosional mountain.



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