

Types of mountain

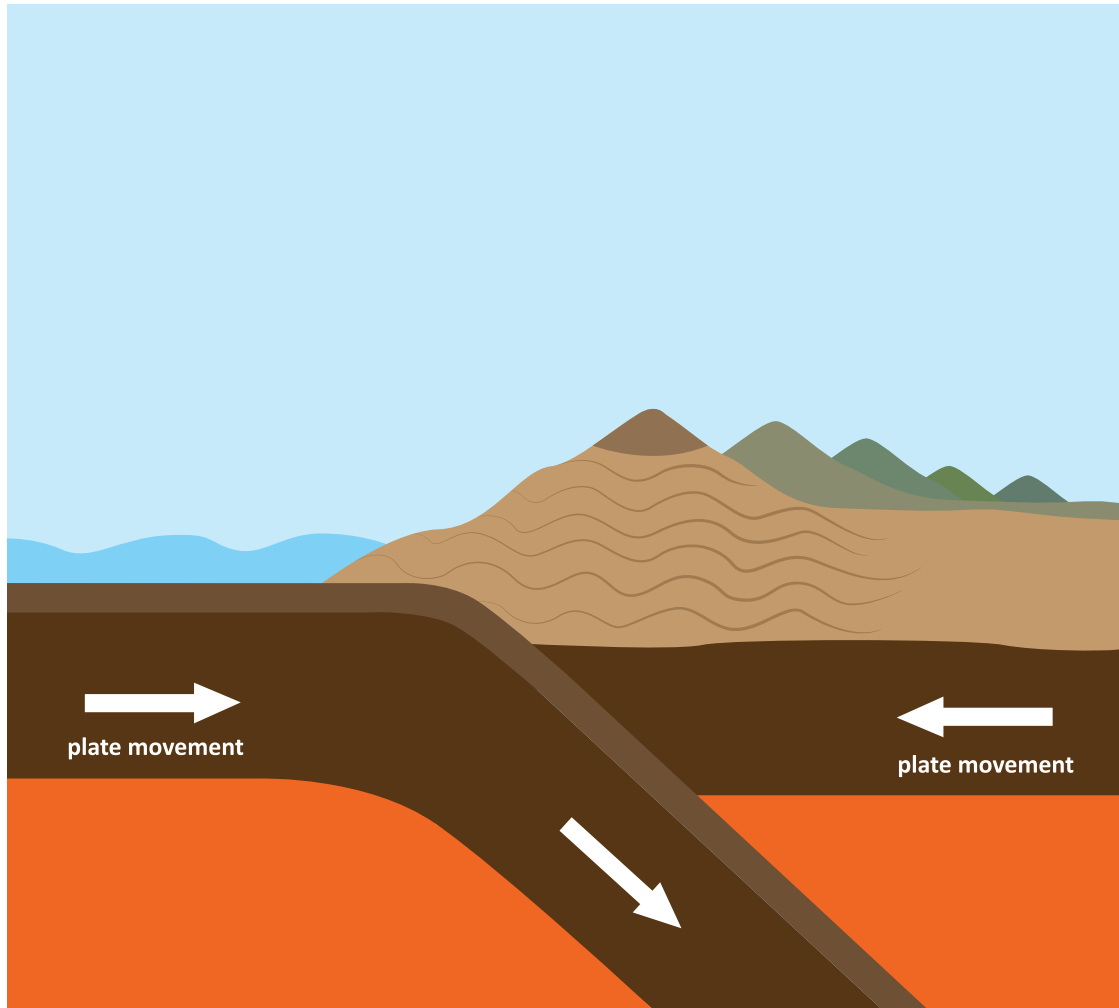




A mountain is a large, raised part of the Earth's surface. Mountains can be classified as different types according to what they look like and how they were formed. The different types of mountain are fold, volcanic, fault-block, dome and plateau.



Fold mountains



Fold mountains are formed when tectonic plates that make up the Earth's surface, move and collide with each other. As they meet, one plate is pushed down while the other is pushed up and compressed, which forms fold mountains. Fold mountains have upward folds called anticlines and downwards folds called synclines.

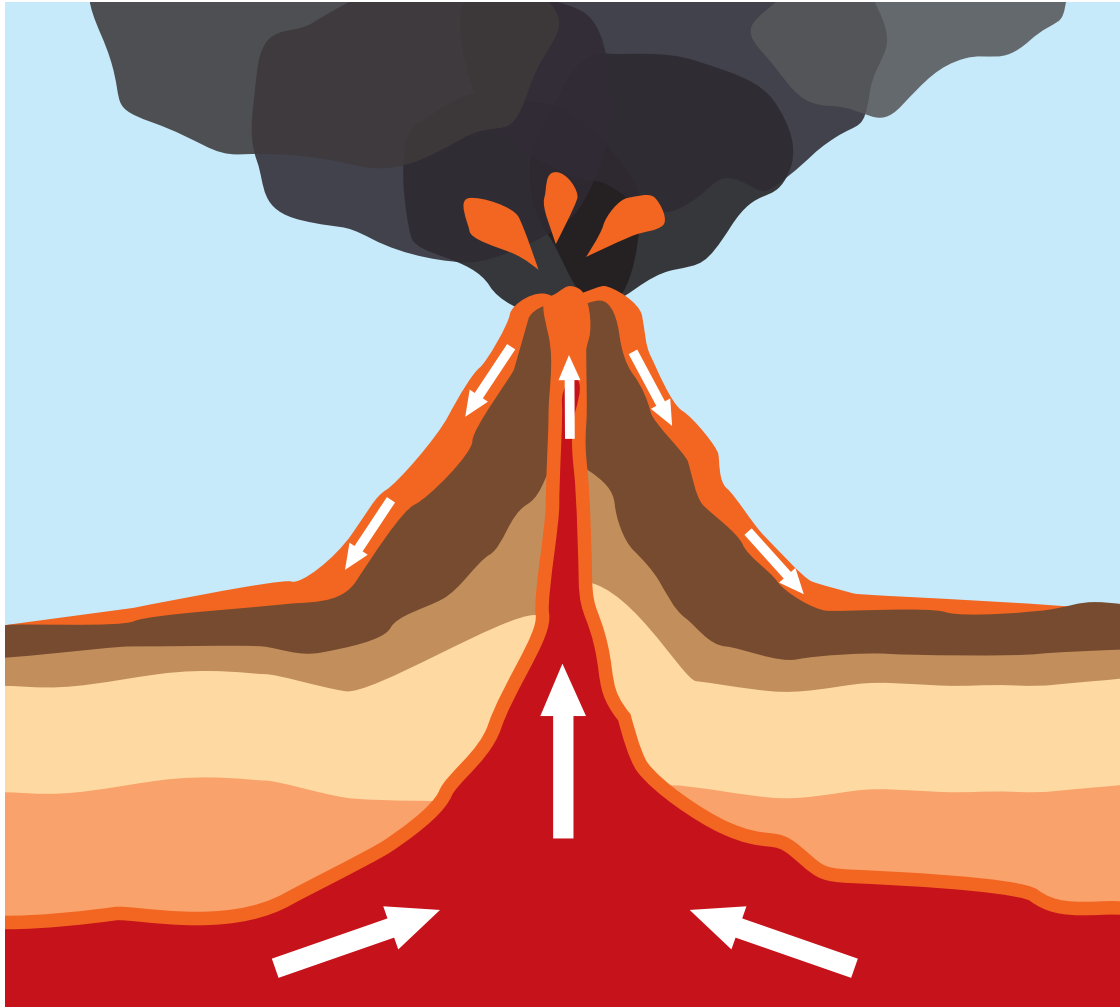




The Rocky Mountains in North America are examples of **fold** mountains.



Volcanic mountains



Volcanic mountains are formed when lava (hot, molten rock), ash and gases erupt through the Earth's crust. The lava cools and forms a mountain. As the volcano continues to erupt, more lava is deposited and the mountain grows. Volcanic mountains have steep slopes and are often symmetrical.

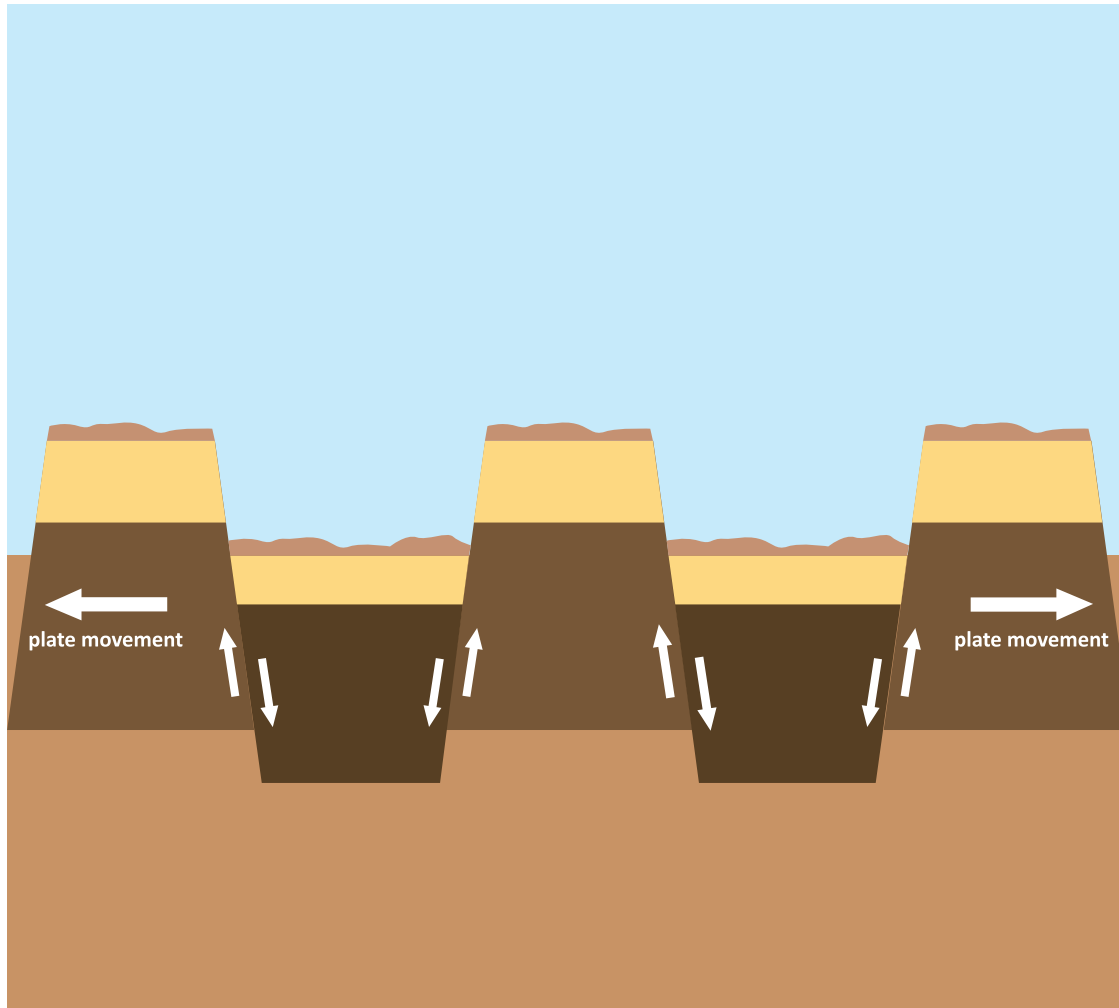




Mount Fuji in Asia is an example of a **volcanic** mountain.



Fault-block mountains



Fault-block mountains are formed at plate boundaries where tectonic plates meet. On one side of the boundary, the earth is forced up, creating a mountain. On the other side, the land collapses and moves downwards, creating a valley. Fault-block mountains have steep sides with valleys between them.

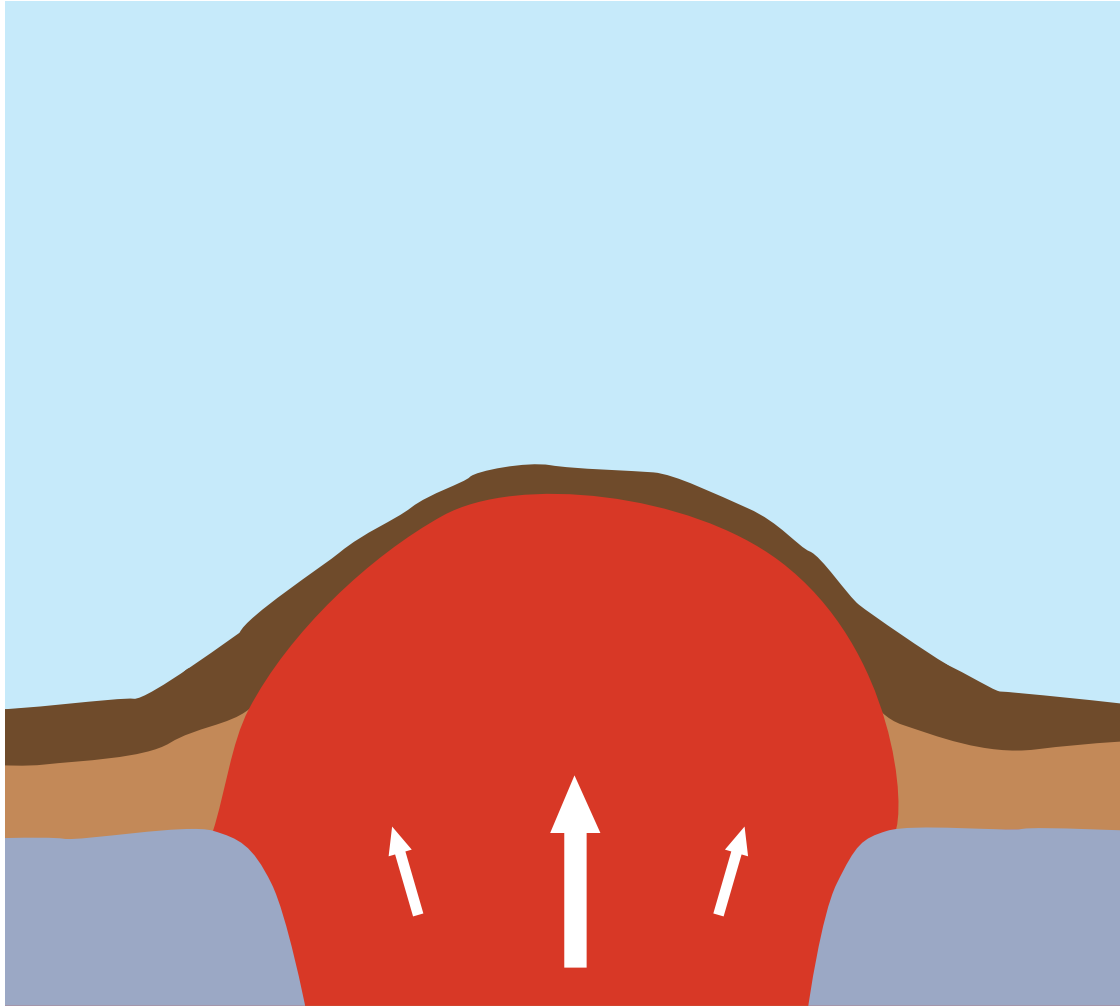




The Sierra Nevada mountain range in North America is an example of **fault-block** mountains.



Dome mountains



Dome mountains are formed when magma (hot, molten rock) pushes upwards against the Earth's crust. Instead of erupting through the crust, the magma cools and hardens. The overlying layer of rock erodes, leaving a dome-shaped mountain. Dome mountains have fairly flat tops and gently sloping sides.

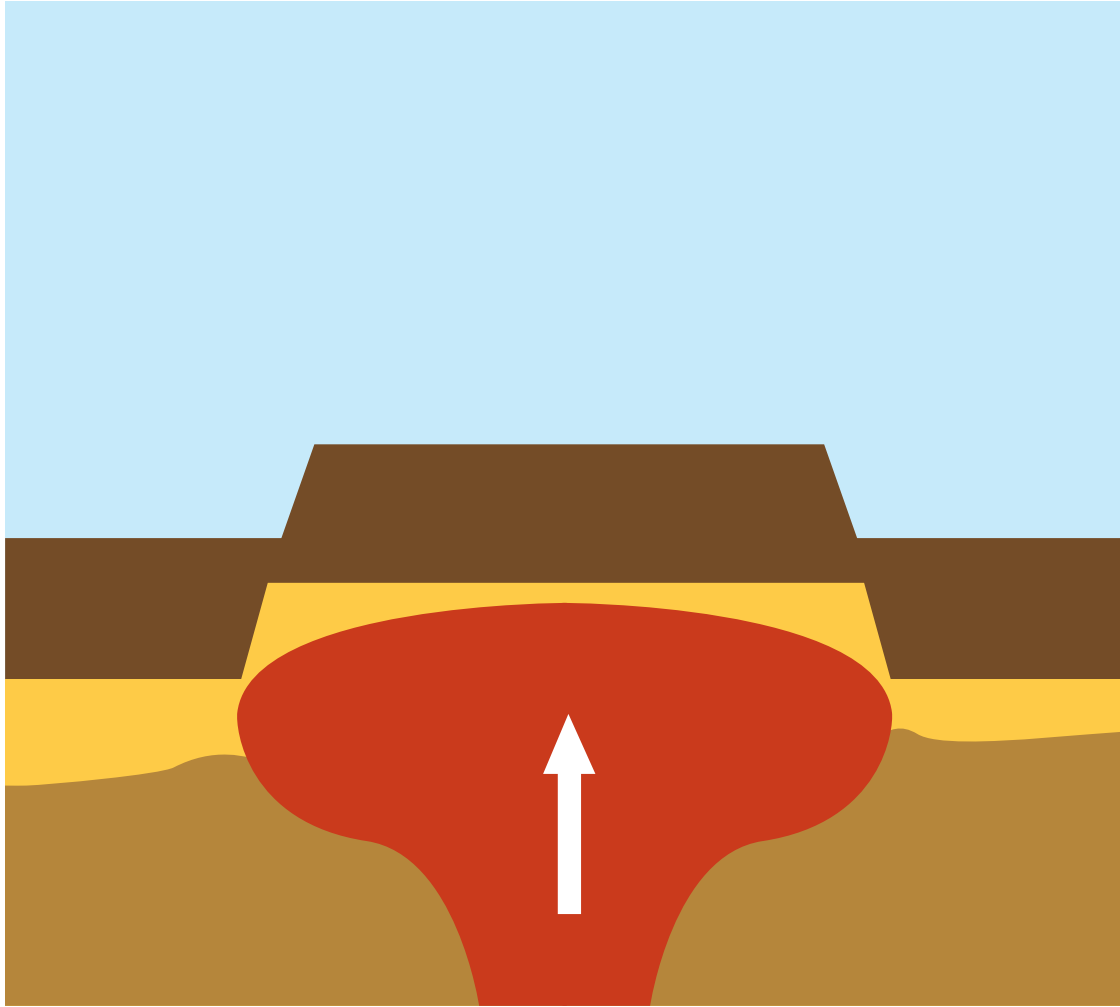




Enchanted Rock in North America is an example
of a **dome** mountain.



Plateau mountains



Plateau mountains are formed when land is lifted up by magma below the Earth's crust. Large, flat areas of land are forced upwards, creating a plateau. Plateau mountains have flat tops. Rivers can cut across plateaus, eroding them over time to create valleys.





The Catskill Mountains in North America are examples of **plateau** mountains.

