

WASHINGTON'S GEOLOGIC HISTORY

Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe the sequence of geologic events that contributed to the growth of Washington State between 800-60 million years ago.
2. Many people assume the Olympic Mountains are part of the volcanic Cascade Mountains. That assumption is inaccurate, because the Olympics are geologically and structurally very different from the Cascades with no active volcanism. However, the rocks that comprise the Olympics were originally formed at a volcanic island arc. Explain how this is so.
3. On our field trip to Eastern Washington we explored the Columbia Plateau basalts. Is the formation of these rocks a relatively recent geologic event or did those rocks flow relatively early in Washington's history? Explain how these rocks fit into Washington's geologic sequence.
4. What do you envision Western Washington might have looked like 46-52 million years ago? Clues in sandstones of that age include tropical palm fronds, bird footprints, coal layers, and cross-bedding.
5. Describe the extent of glacial coverage across Washington during the last Ice Age. Make particular note of the Puget Sound region.
6. Describe the formation of the present day Cascade Volcanoes.