

Geology Of The Sierra Nevada California Natural History Guides

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The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range in the Western United States, between the Central Valley of California and the Great Basin. The vast majority of the range lies in the state of California, although the Carson Range spur lies primarily in Nevada. The Sierra Nevada is part of the American Cordillera, an almost continuous chain of mountain ranges that forms the western "backbone" of the Americas. The Sierra runs 400 miles north-south and is approximately 70 miles across east-west. Notable Sier

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A HUNDRED YEARS after King and Cotter ' s wild adventure in the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada, and Brewer ' s careful explorations, geographers knew the shape of the range and the locations of its high peaks, and geologists had a good idea of its rocks and how old they were, but they still did not know why the Sierra was where it was or how it got there, or for that matter, why any of the Earth ' s mountain ranges are where they are.

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The Sierra Nevada, along with most of North America west of the Cordillera, is composed of tectonically accreted terranes of Paleozoic and Mesozoic age. Many of these terranes are exotic, in that they originated far from North America, and have complex histories of amalgamation and rotation.

~~Geologic history of the northern Sierra Nevada~~

The Geologic Story of the Sierra Nevada Geologists now believe that the outer shell of the earth is made up of rigid plates that very slowly move around over time. The plates consist of oceanic crust (which is relatively thin and dense) and continental crust (which is thicker and lighter than oceanic crust).

~~Geology | Yosemite and Sequoia Field Stations~~

Geologic Hazards in the Early Tertiary Sediments of the Sierra Nevada Foothills of California; Landslide Hazards Along the Interstate 80 Corridor Associated with the Early Oligocene Sedimentary and Volcanic Deposits in the Sierra Nevada; References. The Upper Reaches of the Sierra Nevada Auriferous Gold Channels

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The formation of the Sierra Nevada and its relationship to the adjacent Great Basin have been major geologic questions since the 1800's (LeConte, 1886). From the study of Eocene gold-

bearing paleoriver deposits in the Sierra Nevada, Lindgren (1911) concluded that the Eocene mountain range had similar relief but was slightly lower than the modern range.

~~Uplift of the Sierra Nevada, California | Geology ...~~

The geology of Nevada began to form in the Proterozoic at the western margin of North America. Terranes accreted to the continent as a marine environment dominated the area through the Paleozoic and Mesozoic periods. Intense volcanism, the horst and graben landscape of the Basin and Range Province originating from the Farallon Plate, and both glaciers and valley lakes have played important roles in the region throughout the past 66 million years.

~~Geology of Nevada — Wikipedia~~

Geology It has long been recognized that the Sierra Nevada is an upfaulted, tilted block of the Earth ' s crust. A major fault zone bounds the block on the east, and it was along this that the great mass that became the Sierra Nevada was uplifted and tilted westward. This explains the asymmetry of the range.

~~Sierra Nevada | mountains, United States | Britannica~~

For thirty years, the first edition of Geology of the Sierra Nevada has been the definitive guide to the Sierra Nevada's geological history for nature lovers, travelers, hikers, campers, and armchair explorers. This new edition offers new chapters and sidebars and incorporates the concept of plate tectonics throughout the text.

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Ryan Petterson is a geologist and the Director of Field Education at Stanford University. He has been teaching, conducting research, and leading earth science field trips for 20 years. He has taught geology field courses extensively in California, particularly the Sierra Nevada and... Read More

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