



Curiosity Guide #208

Plate Tectonics

Accompanies Curious Crew, Season 2, Episode 8 (#208)

Towel-Fold Mountains

Investigation #9

Description

Really? Folding rocks? How about entire mountains?

Materials

- Several bath towels in different colors
- 2 bricks, weights, or wood blocks

Procedure

- 1) Lay the towels on top of one another. Alternate colors of towels.
- 2) Lay the bricks at either end of the pile of towels.
- 3) Slowly press the bricks together so the towels fold and buckle.
- 4) What patterns do you see?

My Results

Explanation

When continental plates collide, mountains may form! With enough intense movement, eventually the plates themselves may fold and buckle. These are often called **fold mountains**.

Something to investigate further: You can find many images of fold mountains on the internet. Search for "fold mountains" and click Images. Can you find some graphics that show how the layers of the rock "fold?" Imagine a force so powerful that it folds rock! Tectonic plate movement takes a very long time, but the results sure are impressive!

Something else to think about: Some people wonder if there is any way to predict if an earthquake will happen? So far scientists have not figured out a way to do that. But what about animals? Can animals tell if an earthquake is on the way? Even though there have been historical reports of different animals acting strangely before an earthquake, we don't have any evidence to prove that they knew an earthquake was coming. We don't yet understand how an animal could sense one. Science is full curiosities yet to understand. Keep experimenting!

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