

LESSON 3 Geology of the Evergreen State

KEY IDEAS

- Most of Washington was under water at one time.
- Earthquakes, volcanoes, and floods shaped the mountains, valleys, and plateaus of our state.
- Fossils provide clues about the animals and plants that once lived in Washington.

KEY TERMS

- aquifer
- coulee
- dormant
- fault
- fissure
- fossil fuel
- lahar
- loess
- molten
- subterranean
- tectonic

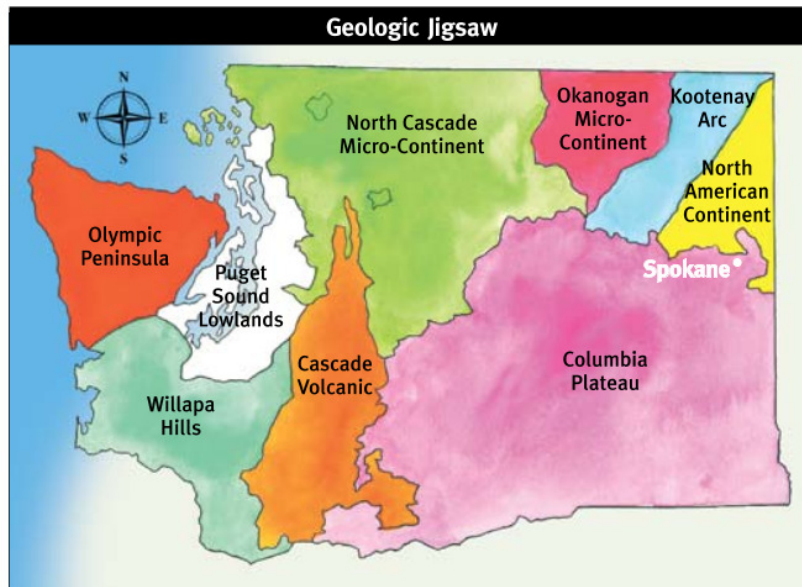
A Jigsaw Puzzle

Eastern Washington used to be part of the coast of the North American continent millions of years ago. Spokane would have been on that seashore long ago.

All of the land to the south and west of the North American Continent shown on the map was under water at one time. Land was exposed as a result of collisions between the continent and the floor of the Pacific Ocean. These

collisions caused the old coastal plain to be crushed into a long belt of folded rock. This created the Kootenay Arc. The Okanogan and North Cascade micro-continents (very small continents) were formed next.

Scientists believe that the North Cascade Micro-Continent broke away from Asia. Many of the fossil remains found there are similar to remains found in Asia. Also, the rock in the North Cascades is different from the rock of the rest of the Cascade Range.



A Timeline of Washington's Geologic History

*MYA means millions of years ago

