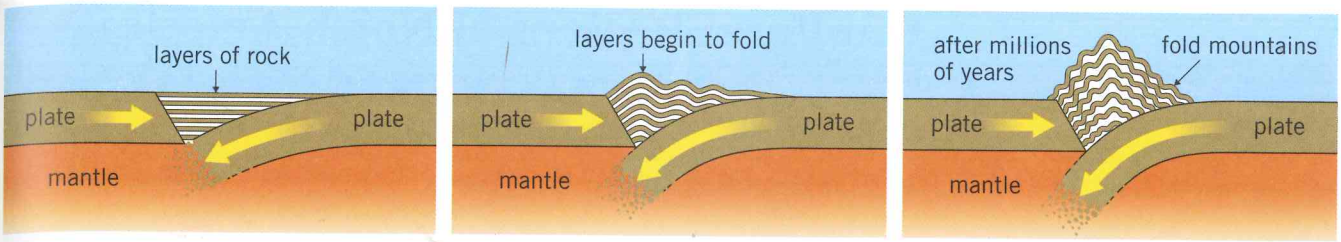

Fold mountains form slowly as two plates move together, bending up sedimentary rock layers.

Fold mountains have been built from thick layers of sedimentary rock deposited in ocean basins. As currents in the mantle drag plates together, these layers are arched up in parallel ridges, like a wrinkled carpet. Of course, rock cannot bend much. Frequently the folds snap, causing earthquakes and movement along cracks called faults. As a result, the sedimentary layers have sometimes been heaved up and stand on end. The pressure of extreme folding has created areas of metamorphic rock in some fold mountain regions.

These great mountain systems form distinctive regions. They divide the flow of rivers. Their elevation causes clearly identified climate regions, which in turn create conditions for unique communities of plants and animals. In short, fold mountain patterns form ecozones.

IN MY WORLD

Identifying Local Physical Features

There are landform features, lakes, and streams in your region. You can locate them by using maps at different scales. Begin with the map of North America on page G 76 and identify the approximate location of your community. You can find the general elevation of your region on this map, and identify any major lakes, bays, or rivers nearby. For greater accuracy, look for the same information using an atlas map that shows elevation, waters, and the basic human features of the province.