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### Geology Glossary

#### O

oil	fossil fuel formed from the dead remains of plants and animals
ophiolite	ocean crust that is thrust onto the continents when the two plates collided
orogeny	a process that builds mountains by tectonic activity
overthrust	when one segment of crust overrides another from a great distance away

#### P

pahoehoe lava	lava that made ropelike structures after it has cooled
pediment	is usually covered with alluvium and is an incline erosional surface that slopes away from the front of the mountain
pegmatite	granite that has very large quartz and feldspar crystals
periodotite	in the mantle of the Earth it is the most common type of rock
permafrost	ground that has permanently frozen in Arctic areas
pillow lava	lava on the ocean floor that is tabular shaped
plateau	an area that is level rising above the adjacent land
plate	a huge moving piece of the Earth's crust
plate boundary	the edge of a plate where one plate meets another plate
plate tectonics	theory that geologists use to account for the way that the Earth interacts with the surface