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Geology Glossary

- pluton when molten rock gets into a space between older rocks it creates new igneous rocks that were formed by gas
- property a trait or characteristic that helps to make an identification possible
- pyroclastic flows an avalanche of hot lava that flows down a volcano when it erupts

R

- redbed sedimentary rock that is red in color
- reef shells from dead organisms from a limestone area
- resurgent saldera renewed volcanic activity that creates a dome on the caldera floor
- rhyolite volcanic rock that is viscous in its molten state
- rift a crack in the surface of the Earth that is created when two plates move away from each other
- rift valley where continental or oceanic plate separation takes place
- rill a trench that has been created by a lava tunnel
- rock cycle process of rock formations and the destruction of rocks which never end

S

- saltation when sand grains are moved by wind or water
- salt dome the arching of sediments of a salt surface
- sand boil a geyser-like fountain that is a liquefaction process that can happen during an earthquake