

Geosynclines

Q. I learned a few years ago, I think, that geosynclines are build-ups of sand, silt, etc. as you describe. But didn't you also say they result in mountains? I don't see any mountains resulting in any of the geosynclines. (Perhaps I am too impatient?)

A. In other Senior University geology classes we talked about the requirement of renewing our continents by mountain building to offset the destructive action of weathering and erosion which, if unchecked, would reduce all the earth's continents to sea level or below. The geosynclines of the earth from the beginning of geologic time have trapped the erosional debris and by plate collision they, the geosynclines, have been compressed, heated and literally "welded" back on to the continents as mountain ranges. In the Gulf of Mexico, Brazil, and West Africa the filling of the geosyncline is taking place today and no mountains have been formed yet. Just give the process a few more million years. But where ever there are mountains today, like the Rockies and the Appalachians and the Andes, etc, ancient geosynclines have been partially compressed, hearted and "welded" back onto the continents.

See links:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geosyncline>

Images:

http://www.google.com/search?q=Geosyncline&hl=en&rlz=1T4GZAG_enUS431&prmd=imvns&tm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=7cg2T4GZA6eBsgLlu4WEDQ&ved=0CDwQsAQ&biw=1600&bih=593

<http://www.uwgb.edu/dutchs/plate tec/geosync.htm>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/230387/geosyncline>