



LANDFORM PATTERNS

WHY ARE LANDFORMS IMPORTANT?

LEARNING GOALS

As you work through this chapter, you will

- describe landform characteristics and their patterns around the world
- describe how natural and human activities create and change landforms
- describe how landforms provide opportunities and challenges for humans
- formulate questions to guide investigations

Four hundred million years ago, these rock layers, now in Devon, England, were formed deep under the ocean. The plates that make up Earth's surface moved, crushing and tilting these layers into these amazing shapes.

The same kind of forces that created the fault lines also create landforms like mountains and volcanoes. They can also cause natural disasters, like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and tsunamis.

These disasters can cause enormous damage and threaten people. How can we protect ourselves from events like this?

As scientists learn more about Earth's forces, including those that created the features on the Devon coast, they come closer to finding ways to predict when big changes, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, will happen.