

## The Rockies

The Rockies is the largest mountain range in North America. It stretches for three thousand miles through Canada and the USA.

The Rockies is one of several mountain ranges in North America. It forms a ridge running north to south down the continent. To the west, the continent is mountainous. To the east, it is quite flat.

The Rockies was formed when two sections of the Earth's crust pushed against each other. The crust folded, like a tablecloth, and the mountains and valleys were created.

Glaciers then further changed the landscape. Glaciers are huge pieces of ice, which move slowly and grind away parts of mountains, making new valleys.

Many of North America's main rivers begin in the Rockies. They either flow east to the Atlantic or west to the Pacific. The lower sections of the Rockies are often covered with conifer trees, timber being one of the main industries. Tourism is also important. The region includes several National Parks and some spectacular wildlife, including bears, big horn sheep and cougars.

1. What is the main difference between the eastern and western halves of North America?


2. How were the Rockies originally formed?


3. What helped to change the shape of some of the mountains and how did they do it?


4. What would you expect to see if you visited the Rockies?
