

Claire Conroy
Geology 010, HW 1
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From the journal of a nameless procrastinating student:

Dammit! I've got to do that geology homework due in the morning. Let's see, this should be simple. I'll just pick a mountain range and regurgitate facts.

The Ural Mountain range is found primarily in Russia. Considered the boundary between Europe and Asia, this mountain range runs North-South from the Arctic Sea to the Caspian Sea. Named Ural because...wait. This is supposed to be creative? And engaging? How am I going to creatively convey that these are one of the oldest existing mountain range? Maybe I should write a poem like:

*Formed between The Permian Period and the Pennsylvania Epoch,
The Urals are 300 to 250 million years old rocks*

No, that's a horrible rhyme. Maybe,

*The collision of two continental crusts
Created these mountains of fold and thrust.*

Hmm, a bit better. Though hardly informative.

Maybe I can scribble a quick picture that shows that this range was the result of the Siberian plate and the Baltica plate colliding together. Or instead an animation showing then how this larger Siberian continent then joined with Eurasia. And due to this merger, the Ural Mountains are now in the middle of the Eurasian plate. However that video would get boring towards the end since the Urals are no longer being built and are slowly eroding down. Though what I'm now reading seems to suggest that their formation was much more complicated than that. Something about a "Wilson Cycle" and that the creation of the Urals went through 'epi-continental rifting', a passive margin, subduction, 'arc related magmatism', and 'arc-continent collision' which finally lead to continent-continent collision. This Victor N Puchkov uses a lot of jargon.

Maybe I can find something done online already that illustrates the Urals' highest peak, Mount Narodnaya at 1 895 meters...

Gah! This has to be original! I don't want a letter of reprimand because I plagiarized about the Mayak Chemical Combine nuclear disaster. Oh my, this is horrible! The most polluted place on Earth is in the Southern Ural region and can be considered a hundred times worse than Chernobyl! Yikes.

Whatever. How hard can it be to throw something together to listing the various minerals prevalent in the mountains, like nickel, iron, copper, silver, gold and platinum? Oh! There's even oil! Lucky Russians.

Yawn, I'm getting tired. I can just do this in the morning before class. With luck I'll dream of a creative way to describe the Urals' composition of granite, gneisses, peridotites, as well as gabbros and serpentine. If all else fails I can ask for an extension. Or perhaps my dog ate my homework? Yeah, that'll work.

Sources:

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